

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**REVISED**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**99-173**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

APRIL 26, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

NEW JOB  
SPECIFICATION -  
PUBLIC WORKS  
OPERATING  
ENGINEER

At the February 25, 1999, City Council Budget Workshop, the Public Works Director gave a presentation on the proposed operating budget for the department which included, in part, reorganization of the Sewer, Street, and Sanitation Divisions to enhance sewer cleaning and storm sewer construction, permanent paving, and recyclables collection. On March 1, 1999, by Roll Call No. 99-605, the City Council approved the City's operating budget which provided funding for the planned organizational changes. Pursuant to those organizational changes, the position of Public Works Operating Engineer has been created to coordinate the design and construction of municipal Public Works' improvement projects and services changes. Specifically, several positions will be eliminated to fund the appointment of three Public Works Operating Engineers.

**TYPE:**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

WILLIAM STOWE  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
DIRECTOR

Funding for the Public Works Operating Engineer position in the Public Works Department is currently provided for in the approved operating budget. It is proposed that the position be assigned Salary Range 31 (\$51,069 - \$61,925) of the Supervisory, Professional and Management (SPM) pay plan.

JOHN BELLIZZI  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Receive and file.**

**BACKGROUND -**

For the benefit of Des Moines residents, the Public Works Department has identified the need for a Public Works Operating Engineer classification, Range 31 SPM, to coordinate the design and construction of municipal Public Works improvement projects and services. Reorganization of the Public Works Department has been initiated to improve efficiency and responsiveness. Specifically, several positions will be eliminated to fund the appointment of three Public Works Operating Engineers. There will be no increase in the number of personnel or funds required.

The Sewer Maintenance Division has been reorganized to enhance sewer cleaning operations to maximize system capacity, and to increase the quantity of storm sewer construction. To accomplish this goal, a Public Works Operating Engineer is needed to facilitate the in-field design and construction of storm sewer projects. The existing Sewer Maintenance Administrator position will be deleted, Range 33A SPM (\$57,585 - \$73,361). In addition, the Assistant Civil Engineer position, Range 28 SPM (\$44,555 - \$53,624), Sewer Maintenance Supervisor position, and Laborer have been deleted in the Sewer Maintenance Division for a total estimated savings of \$202,000. Additions to the Sewer Maintenance Division will consist of one Senior Civil Engineer, one Public Works Operating Engineer, one Senior Maintenance Carpenter (transferred from the Bridge Section), and one Senior Clerk Typist for an estimated total of \$199,000. The resulting savings to the budget will be \$3,000.

The Street Maintenance Division has been assigned the responsibility of bridge maintenance and sidewalk maintenance, requiring the need for a Public Works Operating Engineer. To fund the new position, the positions of Senior Maintenance Carpenter and Public Works Crew Chief have been eliminated, for a total estimated savings of \$79,000. Following appointment of the Public Works Operating Engineer at an estimated salary of \$51,000, the operating budget will realize an estimated savings of \$28,000.

A third Public Works Operating Engineer will be hired in the Sanitation Division at an estimated cost of \$51,000 in lieu of the existing Assistant Civil Engineer to facilitate the revised routing and implementation of the bi-weekly Curb It Program and to coordinate community SCRUB Programs and "Clean Team" activities. Funding for the position will be achieved

by deletion of the Assistant Civil Engineer position, Salary Range 28 SPM (\$44,555 - \$53,624) for a total estimated difference of \$2,624. In addition to improving customer service and technical competency, the department's Public Works Operating Engineers will help to ensure essential continuity for routine and emergency work. Funding for the positions is currently available within the approved operating budget.

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