

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: June 13, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Rasmussen, Abitz, Gisselman, Kellbach, Mielke

Also Present: Marquardt, Wesolowski, Gehin, Oberbeck

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and received by the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Noting the presence of a quorum, at approximately 5:30 p.m. Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

Approve minutes of the May 7, 2013, meeting

Kellbach moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Gisselman seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: Petition to vacate 75th Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Highland Drive

Rasmussen invited those in attendance who wished to speak regarding the proposed vacation to come to the podium and give their name, address and comments.

Andy Joswick, Vice President of Operations for Linetec, stated they plan to construct a 25,000 sq. ft. addition but in order to do so, 75th Avenue would have to be vacated. They own property on both sides of 75th Avenue and there are no other businesses on either end.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed at approximately 5:35 p.m.

Marquardt stated sewer and water is located in the street at this time. Linetec's current plan for expansion will not cross 75th Avenue. Staff will work with Linetec to cap the lines when development crosses the street.

Gisselman moved to approve the vacation of 75th Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Highland Drive. Mielke seconded.

Abitz questioned if there has been any feedback from area residents. Marquardt replied no as residents use 72nd Avenue. Oberbeck added he has not heard any negative feedback.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the vacation of 75th Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Highland Drive carried unanimously 5-0.

Approve petition for annexation – Estes Express Lines, 5103 West Sherman Street (076-2907-324-0993, Town of Stettin)

Marquardt stated Estes Express Lines recently purchased the property at 5103 West Sherman Street. A condition inspection was completed and the County put them on order to upgrade the sewer system. Therefore, they would like to connect to City sewer and water.

Abitz moved to approve the petition for annexation for Estes Express Lines at 5103 West Sherman Street. Kellbach seconded.

Abitz questioned if there are other businesses in the area needing to upgrade per the County. Marquardt replied the plumber working on the laterals for Estes Express Lines indicated another business in the area may be interested in connecting to City sewer and water. Additionally, there has been some discussion with a property owner regarding a possible development on the north side of the road. Therefore, there is potential for other properties to be annexed.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the petition for annexation for Estes Express Lines at 5103 West Sherman Street carried unanimously 5-0.

Recommend proposal for 2nd Avenue/Clark Street streetscaping design

Wesolowski stated an RFP was sent out for 2nd Avenue/Clark Street streetscaping design on May 3rd and eight proposals were received. The selection committee, which was made up of Brad Lenz, Maryanne Groat, Allen Wesolowski, Dawn Follendorf and Dave Oberbeck, reviewed and rated the proposals using the RFP guidelines. The top two proposals were from Ayres and GRAEF and the selection committee is recommending GRAEF. Oberbeck explained the proposals were rated based on experience in urban design and project approach. GRAEF offers an in-house design team, which is a positive. The costs between Ayres and GRAEF were similar. Another benefit is tying into the urban planning initiative as far as design standards, and GRAEF is the firm selected for that.

Abitz asked if the City is staying with the original design regarding the end of Clark Street. Wesolowski stated the design firm will be looking at that as part of the comprehensive plan. They will be meeting with the businesses and staff and will make a recommendation. Abitz stated Ayres had other expenses listed and GRAEF did not. She inquired what other expenses would be incurred. Wesolowski replied some firms chose to include mileage and overnight expenses to attend meetings.

Rasmussen asked Oberbeck if there is a clear indication from GREAF that they will be able to dovetail the vision and energy from the stakeholders into a plan document that addresses their concerns. Oberbeck stated much of that information has been compiled and can be given to the firm for a good start to create a vision to bring to the stakeholders.

Mielke moved to approve the proposal from GRAEF for the 2nd Avenue/Clark Street streetscaping design. Kellbach seconded.

Gisselman asked if GRAEF has worked in Wausau in the past and who would be the lead principles on the project. Oberbeck stated he assumes the personnel listed in the proposal will be the same people working on the project. Additionally, Lenz has met with GRAEF as part of the urban planning initiative.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the proposal from GRAEF for the 2nd Avenue/Clark Street streetscaping design carried unanimously 5-0.

Discuss sidewalks on Cherry Street, Lenard Street, 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue

Rasmussen stated this is in District 7. Sidewalk ends in each block leaving approximately 100' where there is no sidewalk. There is a resident who has sidewalk in front of his house and would like to see this sidewalk continued partially for walkability and safety. When the stop sign was recently installed at Bos Creek and 1st Avenue, traffic began to avoid the stop sign by using Cherry Street and some feel this makes the area less walkable and less safe. However, the area has existed for a long time without sidewalk and the streets are not scheduled for reconstruction in the near future.

Marquardt stated this request came in back in 2001 and was denied as the Board of Public Works did not want to order the sidewalk installed. The sidewalk was again requested this year. Therefore, staff would like to revisit it and get a recommendation from CISM. If approved, it would go into the budget and a public hearing would be held.

Gehin stated sidewalk stops short in the areas of the 1400 block of Lenard Street, and the 1600 blocks of Cherry Street, 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue. Staff focused on the area east of Thomas Jefferson School, north of Randolph Street, west of Burek Avenue and south of Bos Creek Drive. There is no sidewalk north of East Bos Creek Drive. The existing land use in the area is mainly residential. There is a park to the east, Thomas Jefferson School to the west and Northcentral Technical College to the northwest. There is sidewalk connectivity to those areas. The topography on the north end is hilly and it may be hard to build sidewalk. There would also be a few conflicts, such as a tree and planter that would have to be removed from the right-of-way. The estimated cost to construct the sidewalk on Cherry Street, Lenard Street and 1st Avenue is \$6,000. To install sidewalk on North 2nd Avenue would be an extreme challenge as the grade is extremely steep, the slopes are steep and the buildings are in close proximity to the right-of-way. A retaining wall would have to be built along the church parking lot. Therefore, staff does not recommend installing sidewalk on either side of North 2nd Avenue.

Rasmussen asked about the possibility of applying for Safe Route to Schools funding. She stated the person who has requested this lives farther down the area and is the only one she has heard from about this in 5½ years. The City has not received a petition from anyone in the area requesting the installation. During discussions regarding the stop sign at Bos Creek and 1st Avenue, she met with most of the residents and that issue did not come up. The traffic is residential with no truck or bus traffic in the area. She walks the area several nights a week and does not feel it is dangerous for pedestrians. She feels if the road comes up for rebuild, sidewalk can be considered at that time but it should not be put in just for the sake of putting it in. Mielke asked if this request came from the same individual as in 2001 and Marquardt confirmed. Mielke questioned if the residents would be required to pay for the sidewalk installation. Marquardt stated property owners are assessed 50% of the cost for new sidewalk installation. Mielke stated since this request is from only one individual, he does not feel it is needed at this time and would feel uncomfortable with making the residents pay for it. Abitz stated during the discussions regarding the stop sign at Bos Creek Drive and 1st Avenue, there were no complaints. The residents were only concerned with speed and traffic flow.

Gisselman stated when looking at the map, there are several areas with small segments of sidewalk. Connecting the sidewalk to 3rd Avenue from Clayton, Lucille and Cherry Street would provide a sidewalk grid to the school. Rasmussen stated last year she participated in the National Walk to School Day, which included a survey of the parents. The survey showed only 20% of students at Thomas Jefferson can walk to school as most live too far away.

Abitz stated the area has an aging population and the homes will possibly be purchased by younger families. She agrees we do not need to expedite this, but would like to keep it in mind. Rasmussen questioned the pavement rating. Wesolowski stated he does not know off hand but parts of Bos Creek Drive, Lenard Street and Burns Street will be a part of the asphalt overlay project this year.

The committee agreed by consensus not to hold a public hearing at this time, but rather place the report on file and look at the possibility of finishing the sidewalk as projects in the area materialize.

Request a transfer of tax delinquent contaminated property to the City of Wausau – Curling Way

Marquardt explained that the Curling Club bought two tax delinquent properties. Because Curling Way takes up the majority of the two properties, the County looked at what to do since they are still tax

delinquent properties. The County Finance Committee recommended per State statute that the City request the County to take the properties over and then give them back to the City because they are contaminated. The County would then write off the delinquent taxes. The City would not have to do anything regarding the contamination as the area is already paved. Also, the City would not have to purchase the properties as they would be transferred by deed.

Abitz moved to approve the request of transfer of the tax delinquent contaminated properties on Curling Way to the City of Wausau. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Update on the railroad crossings at 5th Street, 6th Street and Fulton Street

Marquardt stated the findings from the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads are that gates and lights should be installed on the crossings at 5th Street, and 6th Street and Fulton Street. The DOT will install gates and lights by the end of 2014 at no cost to the City. Abitz questioned how that would affect the entrance for Good News and Randlin. Marquardt stated this would be taken into account before the gates are installed.

Future agenda items for consideration

Gisselman inquired about the plans to repair 1st Avenue. Wesolowski stated the road will be submitted to the MPO for funding. MPO applications are due by the end of June and the City should be notified in July or August if funding will be received. There will be temporary repairs done in the meantime. Since it is such a concern due to the amount of traffic and truck traffic, discussion followed on the possible use of contingency funds.

Adjourn

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.