

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: September 12, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Rasmussen, Kellbach, Mielke

Also Present: Marquardt, Lenz, Wesolowski, Gehin

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve minutes of the August 8, 2013, meeting

B. Approve Final Resolutions to levy special assessments for 2013 Street Construction Projects

C. Approve storm sewer easement at 407 East Kent Street

Mielke moved to approve the consent agenda items. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Consider delaying the proposed 2014 Street Construction Projects of North 7th Street from Spring Street to Crocker Street and Crocker Street from North 7th Street to North 13th Street

This item was taken out of the agenda order.

Marquardt stated that projects have been submitted for the 2014 budget. Since then, Alderperson Winters received a request from residents to delay the proposed projects on North 7th Street and Crocker Street.

Cheryl Jones, 3222 North 7th Street, stated she is the first house up from Spring Street, north of 7th Street. She thanked Alderperson Winters for taking time to periodically go through the neighborhood to see if there are any concerns. They recently discussed the road construction proposed for 2014. Jones stated 6th Street has been worked on for the past few years and this year Spring Street was reconstruction. Road construction is intrusive and she asked that the proposed projects be delayed for a year to give the neighborhood a break. However, when speaking with others in the neighborhood, they would like to just get it done. She further stated that staff has been on 7th Street taking pictures and elevations and there has already been a lot of time, effort and finance put into the project. It would be foolish for the City not to move forward with the project with the amount of time already put into it. She asked staff to take consideration for the properties with plantings that are along the road, which hold not just monetary value, but also emotional value. There are also terra lock driveways in the neighborhood and other driveways that need to be repaved and questioned when a property owner should obtain bids for additional work. She stressed the need for communication ahead of time with the residents and added that is it wonderful to see how the community is making progress. Winters asked engineering staff to visit Jones within the upcoming weeks to discuss the proposed projects.

Marquardt explained public hearings are typically held in January as that is when preliminary plans are ready. Knowing what happened on Spring Street, staff is already taking pictures of landscaping on 7th Street and Crocker Street. Staff will not know how the driveways will be impacted until plans are completed. Residents usually wait until the asphalt contractor is known to obtain quotes for additional work in hopes of getting a better rate. Each year it seems something needs to get cut from the capital budget. The last few years Golden Meadow, 16th Avenue, 14th Avenue, Silver Spring Street, Rose Marie Street and Bissell Street have been delayed and he would prefer not to delay them again. Streets are also submitted for Community Development Block Grant funds and those streets cannot be cut from the

budget. That would leave North 7th Street and Crocker Street as possible streets to cut from the budget if need be. Rasmussen asked staff to be tree sensitive with the design of the street and try to minimize the impact on mature trees.

Consideration and possible action on installation of street lights at the alley exit on Garfield Avenue between South 3rd Avenue and South 4th Avenue and in the alley north of Garfield Avenue between South 3rd Avenue and South 4th Avenue

Rasmussen stated this item is on the agenda because of the concerns the neighborhood had during the approval process of the Warming Center. There is a potential to light the area better and create a better sense of safety. Emmerich will be installing lighting on the back of his building, but had asked what could be done on the City's side.

Marquardt explained staff has lighting criteria to follow for installing street lights. The criteria does not recommend installation of a light mid-block on Garfield Avenue because of the short distance between the lights. The City seldom installs street lights in alleys and two lights were recently removed from alleys. Lights could be installed on two existing Wisconsin Public Service poles. There would be no cost for installation. The cost of electricity would run approximately \$25 per month per pole. However, the street lighting criteria does not recommend installation of additional street lights. Typically when lights are installed, neighbors are asked to sign a petition. There have been several instances where people are opposed to additional street lights because of light projecting into their house.

John Fisher, representing Emmerich and Associates, stated the Warming Shelter is primarily open in the winter months when day light is shortened. They will increase the lighting on their building; however, there are mature trees on the corners. One area they were looking for a light is between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue. This is where several volunteers will park and there has been a history of criminal activity in the area. As far as a petition, Catholic Charities attempted to contact people in the area; however, there was not a lot of time. During the Warming Center approval, the Common Council and Plan Commission indicated there should be additional lighting for the area.

Deacon Hilts, representing Catholic Charities, stated there is a light over the back door by the handicap ramp. A light is not needed between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue as there is a fair amount of light from the automotive business and the light at 3rd Avenue and Garfield Avenue. The other light suggested by Council is on Garfield Avenue between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue. He made contacts with three residents, two of which signed the street lighting petition. The third would not sign as she is opposed to the Warming Center location. Two employees of Grace United Church requested the mid-block lighting to help with evening events. Emmerich and Fisher have also signed a petition.

Mielke moved to approve installation of a street light on the existing WPS poles at the mid-block alley access point on Garfield Avenue in the 200 block between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue, and at the mid-point of the alley directly behind the Catholic Charity building. Kellbach seconded.

Marquardt indicated during the public hearing it was stated that the people coming to the shelter are not dangerous people. If we are not worried about dangerous people, we should not have to add street lighting. Adding lights for people having to walk a half a block to a parking lot is not recommended as there are similar situations all over the city. The street lighting criteria does not warrant it and therefore staff does not feel additional lighting should be installed. Additional lighting could be installed on private property by the property owner.

Rasmussen stated in this particular neighborhood there is activity that takes place that already presents challenges, and it is not due to the patrons of the Warming Center. Mielke stated he does not look at it as a safety issue. This was talked about when the location was proposed and just for peace of mind it is not a bad idea. Discussion followed on the status of Emmerich acquiring properties and if the properties will be torn down or improved. Rasmussen reminded the committee to keep in mind the track record of Emmerich as a landlord and if acquired properties can be rehabbed they will remain on the tax roll.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve installation of a street light on the existing WPS poles at the mid-block alley access point on Garfield Avenue in the 200 block between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue, and at the mid-point of the alley directly behind the Catholic Charity building carried unanimously 3-0.

Approve holiday lighting by businesses in downtown planters

Marquardt stated Dawn Follendorf of Main Street asked about adding holiday cheer to the downtown planters. The City would provide the electricity. Staff does not have concerns as long as business owners work around existing trees and urns. Staff can work with Main Street and will remind them of separation between church and state. Rasmussen stated the Downtown Planter Agreements has been well received by residents and having a contest for holiday decorations has been discussed in the past.

Mielke moved to direct staff to work with Main Street regarding holiday lighting in downtown planters. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Approve amendment to the Resolution approving the formation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. (This item was deferred from the May 7, 2013, meeting.)

This item was taken out of the agenda order.

Rasmussen stated the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee started as a subcommittee of CISM in an effort to promote wellness and provide oversight during the design of projects. The original resolution did not delineate the length of term for citizen members or the number of citizen members. The current structure would remain until these changes are implemented in April of 2014. Lenz explained this is just a clarification of the original resolution to the existing structure done at the request of the City Attorney.

Kellbach moved to approve the amendment to the Resolution approving the formation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Discuss cross section for Curling Way

Wesolowski stated Curling Way is proposed to be extended. Staff is proposing sidewalk on the west side, curb and gutter, parking on the west side, two travel lanes and a ditch on the east side.

Rasmussen asked if the design is outside the limits of known contamination. Wesolowski replied the design will be shifted as needed. Staff is wondering if the committee agrees with parking on one side and the limits of the sidewalk on the west side. The Park Department will have two parking lots to the east of the street. The design of Curling Way will have to include access to the lots. The road narrows and staff recommends eliminating parking near the top of the hill. There will also possibly be another access point for a storage building. Rasmussen stated parking on the lower section makes sense to provide an overflow area during tournaments. Discussion followed on the limits of the sidewalk.

Rasmussen questioned if street lighting would be included. Marquardt stated staff will look into it as part of the project.

Kellbach moved to approve the cross section as designed with the addition of necessary infrastructure for street lighting should it be installed with the project or in the future. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Consider making 5th Street one way between East Union Avenue and Nina Avenue

Marquardt stated the new owner and the Park Department asked about getting ballpark patrons from the parking lot to Athletic Park. 5th Street from Union Avenue to the north is narrow and there is no room to install sidewalk. A line could be painted on the street for pedestrians, but that does not provide safety from vehicular traffic. Making 5th Street one-way north bound from Union Avenue to Nina Avenue would provide room for pedestrian traffic. The Wilson Hurd parking lot would still be available to use off of Winton Street. Marquardt indicated that although this does not require a public hearing, we may want to get feedback from the affected property owners.

Mielke moved to support the concept of making 5th Street one way between East Union Avenue and Nina Avenue, get neighborhood input, and forward the item to the Parking and Traffic Committee for consideration. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Establish assessment rates for 2014 construction projects

Wesolowski stated contractor pricing has remained steady and staff recommends keeping the rates for 2014 the same as in 2013.

Kellbach moved to set the new construction rate at \$36 per foot, street reconstruction rate at \$21.60 per foot, street eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding at \$15 per foot and the sewer lateral replacement rate at \$500.00. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Approve Hold Harmless Agreement for the installation of fiber optic cable across 77th Avenue (Wausau Coated)

This item was taken out of the agenda order.

Marquardt explained that Wausau Coated is in the process of purchasing the property on the west side of 77th Avenue and would like to run fiber optic cable across 77th to tie their buildings together. Staff recommends approval of the Hold Harmless Agreement.

Kellbach moved to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement for the installation of fiber optic cable across 77th Avenue. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Vacating and discontinuing an unpaved alley abutting 223 and 225 East Thomas Street upon the Petition of Renee Clark, pursuant to Section 66.1003(3), Wis. Stats.

This item was taken out of the agenda order.

Marquardt indicated that an initial resolution to hold a public hearing was approved for this alley. However, the petitioner is in a hurry to build a garage before the winter season. In talking with the City

Attorney, it was determined that if all abutting property owners sign a petition for vacation, the item can go directly to Plan Commission and Council without holding a public hearing.

Mielke moved to approve vacating and discontinuing an unpaved alley abutting 223 and 225 East Thomas Street upon the Petition of Renee Clark, pursuant to Section 66.1003(3), Wis. Stats. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Discuss and make recommendation regarding Stewart Avenue grass cutting and snow removal. (This item was deferred from the August 8, 2013 meeting.)

Mielke stated this was discussed at a recent neighborhood meeting and discontinuance of grass cutting and snow removal was not well received.

Mielke moved to continue with the grass cutting and snow removal along Stewart Avenue. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Future agenda items for consideration

Marquardt stated the renaming of Junction Street from Townline Road to Curling Way may be on a future agenda.

Adjourn

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.