

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: October 10, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Rasmussen, Abitz, Gisselman, 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 September 12, 2013, meeting

B. Approve easement for retaining wall in the right-of-way at 3002 North 7th Street

C. Approve easement for retaining wall in the right-of-way at 711 North 10th Street

D. Approve Stormwater Maintenance Agreement for Riverview Towers at 500 Grand Avenue

Kellbach moved to approve the consent agenda items. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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

Rasmussen stated although this is not a public hearing, property owners were invited to give comments regarding the proposed change of 5th Street between East Union Avenue and Nina Avenue.

Harland Kleiber stated he is the owner of the property at 5th Street and Nina Avenue. He questioned what was planned for the area. Marquardt explained that a request was received from the Wisconsin Woodchucks to provide a sidewalk from the parking lot to the stadium. 5th Street from Union Avenue to the north is narrow so to allow room for sidewalk installation, the City is considering making 5th Street one-way, north bound from Union Avenue to Nina Avenue.

Kleiber stated a number of years ago 5th Street was closed with barricades during the ball games. He believes for the number of games held at the park each year, barricades could be used. Also, when he has been at the property during games, he has not seen many cars using the gravel lot. Rasmussen replied the amount of vehicles using the lot depends on the game. Kleiber asked how traffic would be directed. Marquardt explained if the street is changed to one-way, signage would be installed. It would take time for people to adhere to the change. Kleiber stated most people park on the streets and walk to the park. This change would disrupt everyday life for a limited number of games. He does not understand why traffic has to be rerouted 12 months out of the year. Rasmussen asked Kleiber if his tenants could adjust their pattern if the street is properly signed. He replied probably but other people have garages off of the alley. He asked if there was a master plan to get people to park in the gravel lot where snow fence is used to designate the parking area. He also stated that little league is considering not playing at the ballpark to the north.

Rasmussen stated there are a number of things happening around Athletic Park. Among them, a neighborhood park will be constructed and part of the street has been vacated for access to the park. Patrons will be drawn to the park because of the improved fan experience. The improvements will also give an opportunity to attract tournaments. There is future use anticipated and other uses beyond Woodchucks baseball.

Abitz asked if there would be any hazards in barricading the street during the games. Marquardt replied using barricades would still not allow for two-way traffic. Additionally, personnel would be required before and after the game to set up and remove the barricades.

Gisselman asked if little league baseball was notified. Marquardt stated he does not know how little league is associated with the Park Department. Marquardt stated a letter was received from Bill Duncanson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, supporting the change to one-way. Rasmussen stated the letter also indicated the goal is to reduce parking on the streets during the games.

Gisselman stated the street signage on 3rd Street directing traffic to the lot did not seem to do what it was intended for and the signage should be altered for next year. Marquardt stated those signs were intended to be temporary until the wayfinding signage is installed. Gisselman anticipates the improvements at the stadium will increase attendance, but asked if there was something that could be done with the gravel lot and snow fencing.

Abitz asked if the change would affect traffic entering and exiting the Wilson Hurd lot. Marquardt explained there is circulation within the lot so traffic could enter and exit using either 3rd Street or 5th Street. Kleiber stated it would limit access to his property. Nina Avenue between Gowen and 5th Street is not wide. He stated his tenants would have to change their traffic pattern. Gisselman stated he has been supportive of the larger plan, but this would be an inconvenience to the residents. Therefore, he has mixed feelings.

Marquardt stated a letter was submitted by the Wisconsin Woodchucks in favor of the change to one-way. Abitz stated if this does pass and it is later found that it is not working, it could be brought back to committee to be changed back to two way.

Mielke moved to approve making 5th Street one-way north bound between East Union Avenue and Nina Avenue. Kellbach seconded.

Gisselman asked if there is money in the budget for sidewalks. Marquardt stated by the time we would get Council approval it would be late in the season for painting and street striping. Gisselman stated he is supportive of the idea because updated signage and sidewalk would dress up the streetscape.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve making 5th Street one-way north bound between East Union Avenue and Nina Avenue carried unanimously 5-0.

Final Plat – Morgan Creek Subdivision

Lenz stated he received a final plat for the fourth addition to the Morgan Creek Subdivision. This is the final addition to the subdivision. The preliminary plat was approved in 2003. The final plat conforms to the plat approved in 2003. This plat creates 18 new lots which would make a total of 94 lots in the subdivision. A standard development agreement will be executed with the developer to outline the cost of utilities and parkland dedication.

Kellbach moved to approve the final plat of the Morgan Creek Subdivision and Mielke seconded.

Abitz asked if the water issues in the subdivision have been resolved. Gehin stated last fall there were issues with a stormwater basin. A letter was sent to the owner stating a number of items needed to be addressed before the City would take over ownership of the pond.

Travis Hoerman, Foresight Custom Homes, stated one of the improvements has been made at the request of Brad Johnson of the DNR, which was to dredge out the inlets in the pond. When phase four is completed, the remaining improvements will be completed.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the final plat of the Morgan Creek Subdivision carried unanimously 5-0.

Approve initial resolution to vacate the right-of-way adjacent to 1022 Merrill Avenue

Marquardt stated this item was forwarded by Bill Duncanson. The green triangle adjacent to 1022 Merrill Avenue has a park sign on it. However, it is actually right-of-way and not a park. The property owner to the south inquired about purchasing the area. Since it is right-of-way and not a park, if the area is vacated it would revert back to the property owner per the original plat. The southern portion of the triangle can be vacated; however, the northern portion would revert back to the property owner on the other side of Merrill Avenue. If vacated, the property owner would be responsible for maintaining the entire grass area.

Kellbach moved to approve the initial resolution to vacate the right-of-way adjacent to 1022 Merrill Avenue. Gisselman seconded.

Marquardt stated the property formerly housed U Pump. Christian Winterhoff is the property owner and has no plans at this time to change the grass area. Winterhoff is also aware of the underground utilities in the area.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the initial resolution to vacate the right-of-way adjacent to 1022 Merrill Avenue carried unanimously 5-0.

Authorize Downtown Snow Removal

Marquardt stated each year a resolution is adopted regarding snow and ice removal from sidewalks in the downtown area and associated costs are passed on to the abutting property owners. The costs are based upon actual labor costs and depend upon the amount of snow fall and the number of snow falls.

Mielke moved to authorize downtown snow removal. Abitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

2014 CIP Update

Marquardt outlined the following areas that are proposed to be deferred to a future year:

- Land Acquisition (Funds to be carried over and no new funding will be budgeted.)
- Street Improvement project of North 7th Street from Spring Street to Crocker Street
- Street Improvement project of Crocker Street from North 7th Street to North 13th Street
- Asphalt Overlay (\$380,000 of the 1,000,000 requested will be deferred.)
- Alley Paving (No new requests have been received to date.)
- Sidewalks (\$85,000 of the \$300,000 requested will be deferred.)
- Storm Sewer
 - \$35,000 deferred from the North 7th Street from Spring Street to Crocker Street project
 - \$40,000 deferred from the Crocker Street from North 7th Street to North 13th Street project

- \$100,000 deferred from storm water management
- Other Professional Services (Funds to be carried over and no new funding will be budgeted.)
- Concrete Pavement Repairs (\$15,000 of the \$300,000 requested will be deferred.)
- Pavement Markings (\$50,000 of the \$100,000 requested will be deferred.)

Abitz questioned funding for the study of Scott Street. Marquardt replied that study is to be completed by December 31, 2013 so funding would not be needed in 2014.

Gisselman stated Finance should be made aware that some infrastructure is starting to get to the point where improvements need to be made. The City will eventually have to face the fact that the CIP budget may have to be increased to avoid looming emergencies. Marquardt stated for the past several years the City has been doing less as far as street improvement projects and asphalt overlay. Gehin spoke of how the City is using new cost-saving means and methods for maintaining streets, such as partial depth concrete pavement repair and sidewalk saw cutting.

Future agenda items for consideration

Abitz asked for an update on the Thomas Street project. Rasmussen stated there is an urban design firm looking at the entire corridor. Lenz stated Graef is in the beginning stages. They intend to interview each Council member and obtain input from the residents. Staff can provide more details at a future meeting. Gehin stated an update on the Bridge Street realignment will also be on a future agenda. Marquardt stated three staff members are not able to attend the November meeting. Staff may look at rescheduling the meeting or cancelling it if no pressing issues come forward.

Approve golf cart crossing on 11th Street, north of Sylvan Street

Marquardt stated this item comes from the Tribute Golf Course. The City currently has one golf cart crossing at the Greenwood Hills Golf Course across Hidden Links Drive. State statutes do allow golf carts to cross the right-of-way if it is signed and the municipality has an ordinance. If CISM approves, staff will send an ordinance to Council which would also encompass Greenwood Hills. The crossing on 11th Street would be signed and stop signs would be installed on the crossing portion.

Abitz asked if this item should also go to Parking and Traffic. Marquardt stated these types of items are usually handled through CISM. Gisselman asked if there are any residences on 11th Street. Marquardt replied there is one house on 11th Street north of Sylvan. The golf course is west and east of 11th Street and the house is surrounded by the golf course.

Abitz moved to approve the golf cart crossing on 11th Street, north of Sylvan Street. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Adjourn

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.