

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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

Members Present: Rasmussen, Gisselman, Mielke (Abitz and Kellbach were excused.)

Also Present: Marquardt, Lenz, 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 November 6, 2013, meeting

B. Approve preliminary resolutions for 2014 construction projects

C. Approve Stormwater Maintenance Agreement for 1704 Arlington Lane, LLC

D. Approve WPS easement at 324 East Wausau Avenue

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

Discuss property owners depositing snow on adjacent property

Mielke explained that there are residents on Garfield Avenue that have a next door neighbor who goes out of his way to blow the snow from his driveway against their house and in the spring when the snow melts it drains into their basement. Several people have tried to work with the neighbor for years, including the previous alderperson and the police department. The neighbor could deposit the snow from his driveway onto his yard, but he chooses not to. The City has an ordinance that does not allow snow to be pushed onto the road and he believes there could be an ordinance regarding this as well.

Jim LaCoss stated he is the fiancé of Paula Schultz who lives at 1713 Garfield Avenue. Ms. Schultz has asked the neighbor not to blow snow onto her property due to water problems in the spring. His driveway has parking for four plus vehicles and he continues to blow the snow onto her property. He also spoke with the neighbor and the neighbor told him the City stated there is no ordinance against it so he continues to do it. Mr. LaCoss stated he lives in Minnesota and Minnesota statutes do not allow snow to be deposited onto another property. Ms. Schultz has spent money to add gutters and landscaping and was told she could install a fence. He believes she should not have to barricade her yard with a fence. Mielke stated the City of Rhinelander approved a snow ordinance last year which prohibits placement of snow onto another property. The last time the City of Wausau snow ordinance was updated was in 1972 and he believes it is time for an update. LaCoss stated other communities have a fine system or a warning could be issued for the first offense.

Patrick Bacher, 505 South 22nd Avenue, stated he had a similar situation with the person who plowed his neighbor's driveway. He has a great relationship with his neighbor and they were able to work it out. There is an ordinance against plowing snow in the street and they are asking for the same respect regarding neighbors.

Mielke stated he would like to move forward with this. Rasmussen indicated staff can look into how other communities handle this and bring back to the committee at a later date.

Update on the Thomas Street project from 17th Avenue to the bridge

Lenz stated that GRAEF, the consultant hired to develop a corridor master plan for Thomas Street, has completed the input gathering phase. They spoke with City officials, local developers, property owners and held a neighborhood meeting. Right now they are taking that information and compiling it. They are also looking at traffic data and the Thomas Street study that was completed in 2004. A meeting is scheduled next week to have a progress update and discuss the next steps. More input sessions and project updates are scheduled for early January. Staff anticipates a draft report in the middle of January with a final plan by the end of January.

Gissleman asked if there was any sense of when this might come to the City Council. Lenz stated part of the reason to do the plan is to provide as much information as possible to the Council so a decision can be made. The completed master plan will be presented possibly to the Committee of the Whole to make a final decision on what option to move forward with.

Future agenda items for consideration

Mielke stated he would like to pursue an update of the snow ordinance.

Rasmussen stated she would like to see the current size and state (age, condition) of the City infrastructure. She believes it would help to have an eagle eye view of the infrastructure to help the committee understand what projects are on the horizon.

Adjourn

Gissleman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.