

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: January 9, 2014, 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.

Approve minutes of the December 12, 2013, meeting

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

PUBLIC HEARING: Petition to vacate the right-of-way abutting 1022 Merrill Avenue

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. No one appeared to offer comments and the public hearing was closed.

Marquardt stated this request came from the property owner of 1022 Merrill Avenue. The grass area is right-of-way that is currently maintained by the Park Department. The Park Department and the Engineering Department are in favor of the vacation.

Kellbach moved to approve the petition to vacate the right-of-way abutting 1022 Merrill Avenue. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discuss and make recommendation on the public hearing for 2nd Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Elm Street and Clark Street from 2nd Avenue to the cul-de-sac

Marquardt stated that public hearings for street projects are typically held in January and February, when plans are available. Staff is still working on plans for 2nd Avenue and Clark Street and is unsure if it makes sense to schedule a hearing at this time. Staff intends to bring the design to CISM for approval before going to bid on the project. A resolution will be going to Council for all projects, and we can still hold a public hearing for 2nd Avenue and Clark Street at the end of February if plans are ready. If not, staff would bring the resolution to hold a public hearing back to committee and Council.

Mielke questioned when the next input meeting would be held. Rasmussen replied there have been two stakeholder meetings since November. The input from those meetings was given to GRAEF to incorporate in the plan. Lenz stated the Main Street Board has asked staff to look at the overall plan again. GRAEF is developing plans for 2nd Avenue and Clark Street, but they are also developing an area wide streetscaping plan. There has been a movement to look at the entire neighborhood and how the streets fit into the entire vision and overall goals for the area, which is what staff is still trying to work out with the stakeholders. Main Street has another meeting planned for with the Near West Side and the general public in two weeks. He is hoping that will be one of the final input sessions from the neighborhood so GRAEF can move forward on the area wide plan.

Rasmussen stated she has been involved in the stakeholder sessions and knows that 100% of the stakeholders will not be satisfied, but we are getting close to a design that 95% of the stakeholders can live with. She does not want to get into a position where this project is delayed another year.

Marquardt stated that Wesolowski is working with the utility companies on obtaining estimates to bury utility lines. However, the utility companies will not go forward with burying the lines until they know the project will be done this year. It will take approximately two months to relocate the utilities, which needs to be done before construction. Wesolowski anticipates the street project to take three months.

Abitz stated she is concerned since GRAEF is also involved with the Thomas Street project. Lenz stated they are anticipating a final draft of Thomas Street near the end of January. GRAEF is a large firm and there are multiple people working on both projects. He feels they are doing a good job with working on both projects simultaneously. Abitz feels we have been procrastinating on major projects and she would like to see this move forward.

Gisselman stated if the majority of the stakeholders are not in agreement to the design, a public hearing would upset some of them. Rasmussen replied the public hearing is about property assessments; however, stakeholders may attend to debate the design.

The committee agreed by consensus to wait on scheduling a public hearing until a final plan is approved.

Approve Relocation Order and Right-of-Way Plat for the construction of Curling Way from its current termini north to Junction Street

Marquardt explained that this is the first step in the state statutes procedure for acquiring property for public use. A map of the preliminary design of the extension of Curling Way was handed out. Marquardt noted that the numbers on the map do not coordinate with the parcels and that would be corrected before this item goes to Plan Commission. If any major changes are proposed to the design, it would be brought back to committee. Approval of the relocation order and right-of-way plat allows the City to get appraisals on the storage buildings and on the property needed from the cemetery.

Abitz asked if there would be a concern with contamination on the site where the buildings would be demolished. Marquardt stated a Phase I will be completed on the northern property and the cemetery buildings are storage buildings.

Abitz moved to approve the Relocation Order and Right-of-Way Plat for the construction of Curling Way from its current termini north to Junction Street, subject to correction of the parcel numbers. Mielke seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Approve petition for annexation – Eckert, the south 30 feet of the western 786.21 feet of 3800 North 25th Street (Town of Wausau)

The signed paperwork has not been received yet from the petitioner; therefore, this item was pulled from the agenda.

Approval of Easement and Hold Harmless Agreement for the installation of fiber optic cable across the north side of Broadway Avenue and the west side of King Street

Marquardt stated the City has given approval to this company in the past for similar projects and there are no issues with this specific project.

Mielke moved to approve the Easement and Hold Harmless Agreement for the installation of fiber optic cable across the north side of Broadway Avenue and the west side of King Street. Kellbach seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Future agenda items for consideration

Mielke asked that review of the snow ordinance be placed on the next agenda. He understands it may be difficult to enforce, but the ordinance has not been updated since 1972. He provided a brief background for the committee members who were not present at the last meeting. Rasmussen stated staff will research how other communities with small lot sizes handle this issue and Mielke can check with the Attorney's office regarding the nuisance behavior ordinance.

Wesolowski stated in February he will provide cost estimates for burying utilities on 2nd Avenue. He also recently met with the school district regarding the design of 6th Avenue near Lincoln School. They have issues with bus drop off and the sidewalk, so he will provide a design of 6th Avenue in February.

Abitz questioned if the Thomas Street design would be brought back to committee. Rasmussen replied the plan will be coming to the Committee of the Whole.

Adjourn

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Abitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.