

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 9, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Rasmussen, Gisselman, Mielke, Abitz

Also Present: Lindman, Duncanson, Jacobson, Werth, Giese, Lenz, Wesolowski, Gehin, Lepinski

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 March 12, 2015 meeting

Mielke moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Abitz seconded and the motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Deb Ryan, 702 Elm Street, was under the impression that two-way traffic on 1st and 3rd Avenues was just a potential study. She is unaware of anything from the past that contemplated this. She has forwarded comments from Mr. Schofield regarding MBX and semis having difficulties on 1st Avenue. She would think that would be taken into consideration as well as 3M's concerns. Regarding the landscaping at the Police Station, she attended a CDA meeting last year and was so impressed by the landscaping that she stayed after the meeting to speak with the landscapers. She would recommend the City talk with CDA staff and feels they did a better job than the present landscaper. Regarding Wausau Chemical, she knows people in that area and feels it is a big overreach. It is important to have jobs in the City of Wausau that are in walking or biking distance and she feels that is being overstepped with other priorities. Rasmussen questioned where Wausau Chemical was in the minutes. Ryan stated it was a report given by Werth. Regarding 2nd Avenue, she feels stakeholders, residents and users of the area all have comments that should be considered. Regarding the raised pedestrian area on 2nd Avenue, she handed out a list of disability professionals in the Wausau area. She is not sure if the City contacted any of these experts. She noted that Midstate Independent Living received a \$1 million grant to build a model home including the best in disability options, which was built on NTC property. She feels everyone should have the right to comment on plans before such a one-of-a-kind change is made. Gisselman questioned Wausau Chemical and 1st and 3rd Avenue in the previous minutes. Rasmussen stated 1st and 3rd Avenue was discussed at a previous meeting but she does not recall discussing Wausau Chemical at this committee but it was discussed at ED.

Discussion and possible action on an easement for the placement of a WPS transformer on Grant Street at 630 North 3rd Street

This item was taken out of agenda order.

Wesolowski stated several meetings were held with the Resurrection Parish and owners along 3rd Street in an attempt to find a spot to place the transformer. After several meetings, it was decided that placing it behind the building was not an option for access. To place the transformer in the street, curb would have to be installed along with a bump out to protect the transformer. The possibility of installing angle parking on the north side of Grant Street has also been discussed.

Werth stated there is a development agreement with RMM. RMM was bringing a law firm into downtown Wausau and an old transformer was outside of their window. The utility company indicated that the size of the transformer would cut off access to the alley. The Fire Department also reviewed the site as there are a number of upper living units in the buildings, which becomes a safety factor. A number of meetings were held with all of the stakeholders. The Resurrection Church declined installing the transformer on their property as they are looking to expand. The stakeholders have come to consensus on placement on the street. Placement behind the building would have taken away the garbage pickup area and access for delivery trucks. She is in favor of this proposal. She added that the stakeholders would like a 15 minute parking space for deliveries, but that will be taken to the Parking & Traffic Committee.

Rasmussen received an email from Randy Verhasselt from Evolutions supporting this plan.

Elizabeth Field, Wausau River District, supports the bump out on Grant Street rather than placing it in the alley. She has received several calls from business owners in the 600 block of 3rd Street who would like to see the transformer placed on Grant Street. The placement of the transformer in the alley would negatively impact the businesses in that block, especially Evolutions due to frequent deliveries. The business owners are also interested in seeing angle parking on the north side of Grant Street. She noted that with new proposals you are more apt to get calls opposing rather than in favor. She has been lucky to get calls in favor of this proposal. She recommends approval and hopes this moves forward.

Dick Holster, 2808 Franklin Street, owns 630 3rd Street. He attended several meetings and feels this is the best option. He supports the proposal and hopes angle parking will get approved. He questioned if the transformer placement was being moved. Wesolowski replied the location of the transformer will move to the east slightly as WPS requires a minimum of 10' from a doorway.

Mark Voss, 2201 Starflower Lane, owns Voss Studio. He agrees with the proposed placement as placement in the alleyway was not a workable solution. He feels placement in the alley would become a significant hazard, especially with residents in the upper levels.

Deb Ryan, 702 Elm Street, stated she lived in Chicago in the 80's and all the electrical was underground. She questioned placing the transformer underground. Lepinski replied due to arc flash, transformers cannot be placed underground.

Wesolowski will work with the Police Department and Parking and Traffic Committee regarding angle parking as it will affect the size of the bump out. Abitz indicated that the RFP regarding parking in the downtown area is still being discussed and there is no guarantee for a 15 minute parking stall. Abitz noted that a bump out has been talked about on 1st Street by the Dudley building and there are issues with snowplowing. She questioned the number of spots for angle parking on Grant Street. Wesolowski indicated bump outs are an inconvenience for DPW but not impossible. To create angle parking on Grant Street, the center line of the street would have to be shifted over.

Mielke moved to go forward with the bump out design and refer angle parking on Grant Street to the Parking and Traffic Committee. Gisselman seconded and the motion carried 3-1 with Abitz the opposing vote.

Update on the Thomas Street Project

Bruce Gerland, AECOM, stated they have been working on the block by block analysis, which has been completed. The typical sections, the horizontal layouts of the curbs and medians, and the horizontal layout of the intersections have been completed. The vertical design began this week, which is the next step in the design process. There are three different layouts of the intersection of 15th Avenue. The

original drawing showed that 15th Avenue was going to be realigned from the south to line up with 15th Avenue to the north, which meant acquisition of the property on the southeast corner. Another alternative realigns 15th Avenue on the north side to line up with 15th Avenue on the south, which would require acquisition of the property on the northwest corner. A skewed alternative has an 80 degree angle to try to avoid property acquisition. Rasmussen stated the southeast property owner believes their property was going to be acquired from the beginning. Gerland stated the GRAEF plan shows both properties eventually would be redeveloped.

Abitz understood that Webko was not going to be affected except the parking area. She indicated that Webko specifically bought the building knowing the building would not be disturbed and a parking lot may have to be built on the other side of the alley. She doesn't believe that directly aligning 15th Avenue was ever discussed and Webko is not aware their building may be part of the process. Discussion followed on the alternatives. Rasmussen stated if we try to avoid acquisition of both properties it may create a situation where both owners are unhappy as the road will be very close to their property. She had received comment from Treu's that they wanted to stay. Both Treu's and Webko are on the south side and it would make sense to look at the alignment only requiring acquisition on the north side. Discussion followed. Lenz stated the northwest property is impacted greatly with the alignment where the intersections line up at an angle. This alignment would create a very short driveway and he cannot imagine the property owner wanting that. He feels the first alignment makes sense as it is in line with the original plan of property acquisition on the south side.

Gerland recalled in the original design 15th Avenue was closed with right in right out allowed. As the economic development plan came to light, it depicted this intersection aligned and depicted that each one of the quadrants would be purchased and redeveloped. Rasmussen indicated the driveway on the northwest corner would not accommodate a vehicle and no matter how the intersection is aligned something needs to be done with the northwest corner property. Abitz believes parts of the GRAEF design would be merged into the road design where it could and questioned why the intersection needs to be aligned. Rasmussen feels unless the median is continued through the intersection of 15th Avenue, something needs to be done. Lenz stated it was a committee decision to provide access across 15th Avenue. Abitz thought the median would continue from 12th to 17th and again questioned why 15th Avenue needs to align. Gerland explained that the original drawing showed 15th Avenue lined up with the property on the southeast corner being acquired. Abitz thought the businesses on the south side would not be affected and properties on the north side from 12th Avenue to 17th Avenue would not be affected. Only the footage needed to make a one lane with the median would be taken from the properties on the south side. This realignment would take away an established business from the TIF district. Rasmussen is concerned there will be opposition if there is too much deviation from the plan. Gerland explained the other alternative is to carry the median through and if future development occurs at either quadrant, a left turn lane could be installed at that time. Rasmussen indicated that would eliminate property acquisition on both sides and the owner on the north side would still have a decent driveway. Gisselman questioned if Webko needed the left in for west bound traffic. Abitz and Mielke suggested talking with Webko and the property owner on the north side before moving forward. Rasmussen questioned Gerland if conversations can be held with the property owners and bring an update back to the committee next month. Gerland agreed.

Discussion and possible action on proposed 2016 street construction projects

Wesolowski stated this time of year streets are proposed for next year's projects to give homeowners notice. He noted that usually there is a street for Community Development Block Grant funds. Two of the proposed streets are within areas that would be considered for the funding. The streets are 2nd Street north of Bridge Street and Callon Street. However, the amount of homes impacted may not meet the

criteria for funding. The west side of 2nd Street is not residential and the homes on the south side of Callon Street have the long side along Callon and would not be assessed. Therefore, he may have to come back to the committee with another street that would meet the criteria.

Rasmussen stated Eldred Street from Cherry to 1st Avenue only serves two homes. Wesolowski explained the road and utilities are in need of repair.

Wesolowski stated this would be the list of streets that would be forwarded to the CIP budget process. If the streets are not approved through the budget process, the home owners are notified of the delay. He noted that Ashland Avenue and Meadowview Road are located in a newer subdivision where a permanent road was never installed, but rather chipseal was installed. A petition was received last year for street improvements as the streets are in poor condition. These streets were removed from the budget last year and he feels they should be included for 2016 since there was already a delay.

Duncanson questioned if North 5th Street would be included in this list. Wesolowski does not anticipate 5th Street being assessed because the street is in decent shape and the reason it will be redone is for Athletic Park. The street will be considered during the budget process, but this specific list was provided due to special assessments. Gisselman does not want to lose site of the reconstruction of 5th Street as it is an important part of keeping the Athletic Park area active. 2nd Street is also important because of Athletic Park, the kayak shop and new restaurant. He hopes these streets do not get cut during the budget process.

Gisselman moved to approve the list of proposed 2016 Street Construction projects and if changes are necessary staff is to bring back to the committee prior to the start of the CIP process. Abitz seconded.

Holster spoke of the low level lighting installed on 6th Street. There was discussion at a Finance Committee meeting regarding including lighting during street reconstruction projects. He asked that street lighting be considered at least on 2nd Street due to redevelopment and evening activities at the Boys and Girls Club. He added that Washington Street would also be a good street for lighting improvements. Rasmussen stated the committee has committed to evaluating street lighting during reconstruction projects. Rasmussen asked that an evaluation of lighting be included in these two areas. Wesolowski stated lighting should be a committee decision as it is subjective as to what areas need it and what areas do not. Staff will look at lighting on all the streets but it is a budget concern. He added that the cost of each light is approximately \$5,000, which includes the wiring, conduit, pole and fixture.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the list of proposed 2016 Street Construction projects and if changes are necessary staff is to bring back to the committee prior to the start of the CIP process carried unanimously 4-0.

Update on the meeting with the DOT regarding the possibility of converting 1st and 3rd Avenues to two-way traffic and on-street parking in front of 1910 North 6th Street

Wesolowski explained he met with the DOT and was reminded that 1st and 3rd Avenues north of Stewart Avenue are connecting highway roads. If either 1st Avenue or 3rd Avenue are converted to two-way traffic, one road would become Business Highway 51 and the other one would not. Transportation aids are paid higher for connecting highways than regular streets and therefore aid would be lost. Additionally, when it is time for the road to be rebuilt, if it is not a connecting highway, it would not be the DOT's obligation to rebuild but solely the City's responsibility. The DOT will be installing new traffic signals on 1st and 3rd at Stewart, which do not account for two-way traffic. Any reconfiguration of the traffic signals would be the City's responsibility in addition to reconfiguring signals on Bridge Street.

Rasmussen stated a letter was received from 3M, who is very opposed to two-way traffic on 1st Avenue. In addition to 3M, Joe Gehin spoke with West Side Battery. They are also opposed as they feel they would have trouble with backing out if the traffic flow changed. Joe Gehin added that 1st Avenue is tight and feels it would be difficult converting to two-way.

Rasmussen stated before investing in a study she wanted to hear from the stakeholders. This is the response she expected to get, but wanted clear documentation as to why it is not desired and the negative impact. Abitz noted that she spoke with a variety of residents and all did not want the traffic flow converted. The residents would lose on-street parking and a portion of the driveway.

This item will be brought back to committee for formal action.

Ryan spoke of an incident where someone new to the area started to travel the wrong way on 3rd Avenue. Ryan noticed there is no wrong way signage posted. Another incident was someone traveling on 2nd Avenue attempting a left hand turn from the west side of the street. The lines are fading and maybe adding wrong way signage would be beneficial.

Update on the supply and irrigation for the Highway 52 Parkway Median

Joe Gehin provided a memo giving the breakdown of the estimated cost. Previously staff looked at obtaining supply from the Noodles and Company building, but that did not work out. Joe Gehin looked at the supply from the mattress business, but the size of the pipe is not large enough to accommodate our needs. He spoke with Super 8 and McDonalds and both have been supportive. A private line goes to Super 8, which could be connected to with permission from Super 8. The line would go to the right-of-way of 52, head east towards the furniture store and then to the median. A meter box with backflow prevention would be housed in the right-of-way. Supply and irrigation could also be installed at the median east of 18th Avenue, depending upon cost. Wesolowski indicated funds were carried over from last year for this project and staff will continue to work on this project.

Discussion and possible action regarding the installation of wayfinding signage for the Wausau Curling Club and County Soccer Complex

Sean Gehin was asked by the Park Department and Curling Club to install wayfinding signage on Grand Avenue and on Townline Road. The signage is to assist visitors to find their way to the complexes. The Department of Public Works would fabricate and install the signs. The cost of the signs is estimated at \$600, which would be split between the Park Department and Curling Club.

Mielke moved to approve the installation of wayfinding signage for the Wausau Curling Club and County Soccer Complex. Gisselman seconded.

Abitz questioned installing signs at Townline and Grand Avenue for visitors that may miss the turn on Kent Street. Sean Gehin indicated that Duncanson would prefer to have the signage at Kent Street to direct visitors to the parking lot on the south side of the complex. Rasmussen said an option would be to approve with the understanding that additional signs could be installed. Duncanson was thinking primarily of traffic traveling south on Grand Avenue and the address of the complex is 602 Kent Street. He stated there is no harm in having the opportunity of thinking about installing additional signage, which can be discussed internally.

Mielke moved to approve the installation of wayfinding signage for the Wausau Curling Club and the County Soccer Complex as designed and if additional signs are needed it can be decided amongst staff. Gisselman seconded and the motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on Athletic Park Development Agreement and First Amendment to Athletic Park Use Agreement

This item was taken out of agenda order.

Wesolowski explained that future improvements are proposed to 5th Street and pedestrian improvements to 3rd Street. He reminded the committee that 5th Street from Union Avenue to Nina Avenue was converted to a one-way, north bound street. The street is approximately 16' wide and a pedestrian lane would be marked on the street. This will still allow traffic to flow one-way north bound and define the pedestrian walkway. Wesolowski also met with WPS this week regarding the installation of additional street lighting on 5th Street. WPS will also change existing lights to LED. Standard pedestrian crossing signs will be installed at the intersection of 3rd Street and East Wausau Avenue. The pedestrian striping in this area is faded and will be re-striped. In 2016, 5th Street is proposed to be reconstructed to include a raised concrete sidewalk with curb to provide separation between the walkway and the road. This would provide safety to pedestrian traffic and encourage visitors to use the Wilson Hurd parking lot. If the street is reconstructed and sidewalk added to the gravel entrance of the Wilson Hurd lot, it would be discontinuous. He would recommend looking at reconstructing 5th Street to Nina Avenue or possibly to Winton Street.

Gisselman stated the importance of guiding people to the Wilson Hurd lot was discussed at the Park and Recreation Committee. Making it safer and more pleasing so people use the lot will take away some of the potential safety issues with parking west of 3rd Street. He hopes the pedestrian upgrades at the intersection of Wausau Avenue and 3rd Street will encourage traffic to slow down and be more cognizant of pedestrians crossing the street. He feels reconstructing 5th Street to Winton Street would eventually be a good goal. Nina Street from Gowen Street to 5th Street is not much of a street and he feels traffic should be guided to Winton Street.

Rasmussen uses the Wilson Hurd lot and noted that there is a fair amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Also, after ballgames it is very dark and there are tripping hazards with holes in the transition between the road and the parking lot. She added that on game day there is a definite pedestrian safety issue at 3rd Avenue and East Wausau Avenue. She feels the proposed improvements are very positive.

Gisselman moved to approve the Athletic Park Development Agreement and First Amendment to Athletic Park Use Agreement. Abitz seconded.

Jacobson noted that a few additional refinements are being made to the Development Agreement and the First Amendment before the item goes to Council. These refinements include housekeeping issues, renumbering and changing of the chronological order.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the Athletic Park Development Agreement and First Amendment to Athletic Park Use Agreement carried unanimously 4-0.

Future agenda items for consideration

Abitz questioned if Pardee Street will be looked at for future reconstruction due to drainage issues. Rasmussen stated staff can look into the street and bring it to committee if needed.

Wesolowski stated staff is scheduled to attend a conference during the May CISM meeting. The committee agreed to reschedule the May meeting to May 7 at 5:30.

Adjourn

Mielke moved to adjourn the meeting. Gisselman seconded and the motion carried unanimously 4-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.