

Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Winters {VC}, Kellbach, Mielke (Nutting absent)
Others Present: Lt. Pekarske, Alfonso, Wesolowski, Friday, Dan & Jodi Hansen

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Abitz at 5:20 pm.

(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting – 02/19/2015

Motion by Mielke, second by Winters, to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2015 meeting.

Motion carried 4-0.

(2) Discussion and possible action: On the proposal for the creation of parking spaces on City property (Community Gardens) along the 1500 block of N 1st Street and the 100 block of Dekalb Street.

Discussion:

Wesolowski indicated that he has been unable to meet with Ann Werth from Community Development to discuss the proposals outlined at the February meeting because Ann has been on vacation.

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion carried 4-0

(3) Discussion and possible action: On the installation of a stop sign for northbound traffic on N. 10th Avenue at Strowbridge Street.

Discussion:

Wesolowski indicated that he received a call from a resident who lives on 10th Ave. and is concerned that this is a dangerous intersection because there is only one stop sign.

Lt. Pekarske stated that this is one of the last intersections in the City that is not completely traffic controlled in one direction.

The committee also discussed other possible locations for placement of stop signs in this area.

Wesolowski said that since most traffic is going west on Strowbridge and turning left it would make the most sense to keep that traffic flowing and put the stop sign on N. 10th Ave.

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to install a stop sign for northbound traffic on N. 10th Avenue at Strowbridge Street.

Motion carried 4-0

(4) Discussion Item Only: Review the intersection of the US-51 northbound off-ramp at W. Bridge Street to discuss visibility issues and safety concerns.

Resident Jodi Hansen indicated that she brought this item to the committee because of safety concerns she has regarding this area. She is requesting accident statistics for this area also.

Lt. Pekarske stated that there have been 21 crashes at this location in the past 12 months. All were rear-end crashes. All the crashes were attributed to inattentive driving or following too closely. He noted that there is a significant volume of traffic in the area which contributes to the number of crashes as well. The current signage is legal and properly placed. He also said that this area is a State highway interchange intersection so the City has no control over how it is signed or signal. The City can ask the State to review it and possibly consider a traffic control turn lane or a stop sign for this location. However, he noted that neither of those solutions absolve a driver of responsibility to be attentive and make sure the vehicle in front of you has cleared the intersection.

Wesolowski offered to send an email to the Traffic Safety Engineer at the DOT requesting the State review this intersection and see if any changes should be made. The committee agreed.

(5) Discussion Item Only: Information on the Newman school traffic back-ups occurring on W. Bridge Street.

Discussion:

Abitz stated that she brought this item to the committee because she encountered this situation while driving and because of a current newspaper article regarding the issue.

Lt. Pekarske said the Newman school has a committee in place to re-design their parking lot to move their pick-up/drop-off area to the north side and to access from Quaw St. The area along the school would be reserved for busses. They hope to have a plan in place by summer. Regardless of the changes there will likely still be 10-15 minutes per day of traffic congestion in that area.

(6) Future Agenda Items

(7) Communications:

None

(8) Adjournment:

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Item #2: East Kent Street

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memo

Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

To: Nathan Perkarske
From: Dan Fiorenza
CC:
Date: 5/6/2015
Re: No Parking on Kent Street

Comments: Nate,

Thanks for bringing this to Parking and Traffic Committee.
The reason we would like no parking along Kent Street, to the East of Curling Way is:

- During heavy use times individuals will park along Kent Street and walk up the side slopes into the Sports Complex. Walking up these side slopes (where all the drainage from the facility goes) will lead to erosion and maintenance issues.
 - During heavy use times, we feel it could be dangerous to have parking along the street on the main entry. We want to encourage parking in designated areas only and then have individuals use the sidewalks rather than walk the roadway into the facility.
 - Unless fields are reserved, individuals are prohibited from playing on the complex fields. Allowing parking on Kent will encourage individuals to stop at the gate and park along Kent Street to walk into the facility.
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From: [Kemnitz, Tony - DOT](#)
To: [Allen Wesolowski](#)
Cc: [Nathan Pekarske](#); [Jennifer Friday](#)
Subject: RE: Bridge Street/Hwy 51 Ramps
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 6:50:41 AM

Hi Allen

Thank you for the heads up. We have been aware of the issues and have been investigating several options to help address the operational concerns on the NB off ramp. I will check in with our staff and either follow up directly with you or have one of engineers contact the City.

Tony Kemnitz, P.E., PTOE
WisDOT NCR Traffic Safety Engineer
715-421-8023

From: Allen Wesolowski [mailto:Allen.Wesolowski@ci.wausau.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Kemnitz, Tony - DOT
Cc: Nathan Pekarske; Jennifer Friday
Subject: Bridge Street/Hwy 51 Ramps

Tony,

The city received a complaint from a citizen regarding the northbound off ramp at Bridge Street. The complaint comes from a person trying to make a right turn off the ramp onto Bridge Street. This person rear ended the car in front, blaming the layout of the intersection. This is a signalized ramp with the right turn lane having a yield sign. I am sure you are familiar with this. The T&P Committee requested I contact the DOT to look at this intersection, in particular the right turn. Lt. Pekarske looked at it and stated there were 21 such accidents at this intersection in the past year. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Allen M. Wesolowski, P.E.
Project Manager
City of Wausau
Office: 715-261-6762
Cell: 715-581-5774

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