

### **Parking and Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 5:15pm, in the Birch Room at City Hall  
Members Present: Abitz{C}, Winters {VC}, Mielke, Nutting, (Kellbach absent)  
Others Present: Lt. Graham, Tara Alfonso, Allen Wesolowski, Jennifer Friday, Jeff Lindell, Larry Cihlar, Larry Mancini, Greg Sidoff

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 Vice Chairperson Winters at 5:20 pm.

#### **(1) Minutes of the Prior Meeting – 01/21/2016**

Motion by Mielke, second by Nutting, to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting.

Motion carried 3-0. (Abitz and Kellbach absent)

#### **(2) Discussion and possible action: Traffic study for John Muir Middle School and the surrounding infrastructure**

Discussion:

Wesolowski indicated that City Staff, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and School Staff had a meeting to discuss traffic concerns surrounding John Muir Middle School.

Larry Mancini, Principal of John Muir middle spoke addressing the various traffic congestion issues at and near the school. Specifically, there is a concern about traffic congestion and safety at the intersection of Stewart Ave and S 12<sup>th</sup> Ave during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up hours for the school. There are no signal lights at that intersection so crossing guards are responsible for stopping traffic and allowing children to safely cross Stewart Ave. There is also a concern about vehicles parking illegally on S 12<sup>th</sup> Ave in order to drop off children at the school. There are also infrastructure parking issues at the school which creates additional traffic congestion.

After additional discussion regarding the specific traffic congestion at the various spots within the school grounds and on the surrounding streets, Winters asked what it is that the school would like to see happen to resolve this issue.

Wesolowski indicated that when he met previously with the school staff and the DOT it was suggested that one option would be to hire a company to conduct a traffic study in conjunction with the City and share the cost. That is what the school is seeking from the Committee at this meeting.

Alfonso noted that a similar situation existed at Newman school and the school resolved the issue itself and paid for the improvements themselves.

Wesolowski also stated that the DOT is not interested in erecting and paying for a signal at S 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and Stewart Ave.

Motion by Abitz, second by Mielke to direct the Engineering Department to conduct further study of the traffic issues and report back to the committee.

Motion carried 3-1. Nutting dissented.

### **(3) Discussion: Entry and exit concerns for Tobacco Outlet (W Thomas Street and S 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue)**

Discussion:

Abitz indicated that she is concerned about cars trying to exit the Tobacco Outlet parking lot and turn east onto Thomas Street because she feels it is a safety concern. She inquired as to whether the committee could take action on this matter. Specifically, she would like a “No Exit” sign installed at the driveway entrance to Tobacco Outlet from W Thomas Street.

Wesolowski and Lt. Graham stated that since it is private property the committee would not be able to install any signage or enforce any violations of signage. The committee would be able to request that the owners of Tobacco Outlet install signage. Lt. Graham also noted that in the past 3 years there has been 1 accident involving a vehicle exiting the south entry/exit of Tobacco Outlet.

The committee directed Lt. Graham to contact the owners of Tobacco Outlet about this issue

### **(4) Discussion: Reducing the speed limit in the 2900 block of Stewart Avenue from 35 MPH to 25 MPH**

Discussion:

Lt. Graham stated that he was unaware of who brought forth the issue.

Nutting indicated that he was in favor of the change.

Wesolowski said that a traffic study would have to be done prior to any change to the speed limit. Alfonso expressed a concern about the legality of the committee authorizing the change even after a traffic study is complete because it is not clear that it is allowed by the DOT. Wesolowski will investigate the legality issue.

The committee directed Wesolowski to complete a traffic study as soon as weather permits.

### **(5) Discussion and possible action: To consider installation of pedestrian signs on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue near Elm Street**

Discussion:

Wesolowski presented literature to the committee members indicating pedestrian signal options and their respective cost. The proposed location for the installation of the pedestrian crossing signs is the north side of the intersection at N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Alexander Street to cross N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Greg Sidoff, Facilities Manager at Eastbay stated that Eastbay typically has 400-500 employees reporting to work for the first shift and only 290 parking spaces on their property on the east side of N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue so there is significant pedestrian traffic crossing N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from other parking locations on the west side. Eastbay is concerned about the safety of their employees.

Wesolowski explained the differences between the two pedestrian sign option, the Flashing LED sign and the Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB). Wesolowski recommends the newer RRFB technology signs because it has been determined to be more effective.

The cost for the 2 Flashing LED sign is estimated at \$6867 while the cost for the 2 RRFB sign is estimated at \$7287. Installation is not included.

Greg Sidoff stated that Eastbay would be willing to contribute half of the cost.

Motion by Winters, second by Mielke, to install RRFB pedestrian signs on the north side of the intersection of N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Alexander Street.

Motion carried 4-0.

**(6) Discussion: To consider installation of digital speed warning signs on W Bridge Street between N 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and N 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Discussion:

Lt. Graham stated that a resident had expressed concerns to Winters about speeding on W Bridge Street between N 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and N 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Wesolowski presented cost figures for the digital warning sign.

After further discussion the committee decided that increased enforcement in that area would be more effective than the installation of digital warning sign.

No further action was taken.

**(7) Discussion and possible action: To prohibit parking on the north side of Marquardt Road from a point 225 feet east of its intersection with N 6<sup>th</sup> Street to N 6<sup>th</sup> Street**

Discussion:

Lt. Graham stated that a resident expressed concern about this issue at one of the sector meetings. The location of this issue is within Winter's district and since Winters had to depart this meeting for another meeting the committee decided to table the issue until next month's meeting

**(8) Discussion and possible action: To restrict parking surrounding Lincoln Elementary School as follows:**

1. No parking, standing or stopping on the north side of Pardee Street between S 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, during school hours, Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 4 PM (signs currently posted on the south side of Pardee Street between S 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be removed thereby allowing parking on the south side).
2. No parking, standing or stopping on the west side of S 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue from a point 370 feet north of its intersection with West Street to West Street, excluding busses.
3. No parking, standing or stopping on the south side of West Street between S 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue during school hours, Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 4 PM (signs currently posted on the north side of West Street between S 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be removed thereby allowing parking on the north side).

Discussion:

Lt. Graham stated that there are concerns about student safety during drop off and pick up times at Lincoln Elementary. Additionally, the current signage is not listed in the Municipal Ordinances making it difficult to enforce.

Lt. Graham and school staff met and decided that since the current signs are unenforceable a change needs to be made. After discussing ways to ensure student safety with regards to this issue the above recommendations were made.

The impact of the first recommendation would be that those utilizing the parking on the north side of Pardee Street in front of the school district building and the parks department building would need to park on the south side of Pardee Street.

Larry Cihlar from Wausau School District indicated that they do not object to making the north side of Pardee Street "No Parking" in the interest of student safety. His suggestion was to have "No Parking" on the north side of Pardee Street between S 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at all times not just during school hours. He maintains that it is difficult for School District and Parks Department large vehicles to get through when cars are parked on both sides of Pardee Street after school hours or when school is not in session.

Lt. Graham indicated that by making the changes recommended, the existing parking and safety issues surrounding Lincoln school and the legal issues involved with signage being listed in the Municipal Ordinances would be addressed.

Abitz expressed a concern about resident parking on the south side of West St. Lt. Graham indicated that all of those residents were notified of this agenda item and that he did not receive any calls. Abitz also noted that the signage would specify school hours only so as not to impact parking for the Fair.

Motion by Mielke, second by Nutting to restrict parking surrounding Lincoln Elementary School as follows:

1. No parking, standing or stopping on the north side of Pardee Street between S 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (signs currently posted on the south side of Pardee Street between S 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be removed thereby allowing parking on the south side).
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Motion carried 3-0

**(9) Discussion and possible action: Merging the Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee (CISM) and the Parking and Traffic Committee**

Discussion:

The committee members noted that there are many issues that overlap between these two committees and it seems like a feasible idea. Abitz stated that she feels it would be best to have the committees combined prior to the next City Council election when elected members would be choosing which committees they would be involved with. The members also felt that some of the issues currently discussed could be assigned to City Staff to handle.

Alfonso explained the steps that would need to be taken to accomplish combining the two committees.

The committee members noted that the final Parking and Traffic Committee meeting would be held in March 2016.

Motion by Mielke, second by Nutting to Merge the Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee (CISM) and the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Motion carried 3-0

**(10) Future Agenda Items: To prohibit parking on the south side of the 1000 block of Graves Avenue**

Lt. Graham read a letter received by Winters from residents Pat and Jan Brenahan expressing their opinion regarding this issue. They do not object to the proposal but request that parking restrictions be lifted during holidays. The committee determined that it would not be possible to do that.

Committee members decided to re-address the issue at the March 2016 meeting. Residents will again be notified of this agenda item prior to the meeting.

**(11) Communications:** None

**(12) Adjournment:** Motion by Mielke, second by Nutting, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned 6:50 PM