

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Lou Larson, Tom Neal, James Wadinski
By WebEx: Deb Ryan

Also Present: Eric Lindman, Allen Wesolowski, TJ Niksich, Cord Buckner, Tara Alfonso
By WebEx: Sarah Watson, Mark Thompson – MTS LLC

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 5:15 p.m. Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

Approve minutes of the March 10, 2022 meeting

Neal moved to approve the minutes of the March 10th meeting. Larson seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Public Hearing: Vacating and discontinuing excess public right-of-way located on the east side of 17th Avenue, abutting the west property line of 1607 Chellis Street, the south property line of 1427 Lake Street, and a portion of the south property line of 1425 Lake Street

Gizo Ujarmeli, 920 Hamilton Street, represents Wausau Real Estate LLC. He is the owner of the property at 1427 Lake Street. He has an accepted offer on 1607 and 1601 Chellis Street, contingent upon today's hearing.

There were no further comments, and the public hearing was closed.

Discussion and possible action on vacating and discontinuing excess public right-of-way located on the east side of 17th Avenue, abutting the west property line of 1607 Chellis Street, the south property line of 1427 Lake Street, and a portion of the south property line of 1425 Lake Street

Larson questioned why the offer was contingent. Ujarmeli explained the offer is contingent upon approval of the vacation. If the vacation is approved, he will purchase the other two lots and will be able to have a connection.

Neal moved to approve. Seconded by Wadinski.

Larson put this out on the neighborhood page and was surprised more people did not appear. He is reluctant to support this. While he feels it is nice to have development and tax dollars, the other side of him wonders if this will end up being another sore thumb like the developments along Thomas Street. He will support this due to the fact there were no more responses from citizens. Rasmussen added that planning and zoning would most likely be considered regarding the development.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on Preliminary Resolution to hold a public hearing to vacate and discontinue a public walkway abutting 3317 Polzer Drive, 3311 Polzer Drive, 3312 Wildwood Lane, and 3318 Wildwood Lane

Wesolowski stated residents came forward regarding this vacation. The petition has been signed by all abutting property owners. At this point, the City does not have any plans to put in a walkway.

Wadinski moved to approve. Seconded by Larson and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on parking restrictions on the north side of Cedar Street between North 3rd Avenue and North 4th Avenue

With cars parked on both sides of the street and particularly in the winter, there has been difficulty with snowplows getting through and trash collection. Even when church is not in session, parking is an issue.

Wesolowski stated there is currently a loading zone sign which is not in ordinance. The initial request from Alder Watson was to have no parking on the entire north side of Cedar Street between 3rd and 4th Avenue. Buckner and Wesolowski have reviewed this and talked with the church. There is a need for the loading zone. Staff recommends keeping the loading zone signage and placing it into ordinance. Staff also recommends adding no parking back to corner from the east side of the loading zone to the corner as traffic can have a higher speed coming off 3rd Avenue. Cars parked in this area could make it difficult and could create a sight distance issue.

Rasmussen asked if it was possible to do two things; codify the pedestrian drop off and pick up area as this is the entrance into the church to use the elevator and consider restricting parking on the north side of Cedar Street between November 1 and April 1. Watson advocated for restricting parking on the north side during the winter months because of plowing and snow accumulation.

Wesolowski stated staff recommends having no parking here to corner year-round. No parking in the winter from the west side of the loading zone to 4th Avenue would be up to the committee. Rasmussen noted it has been helpful in other neighborhoods and asked the committee's thoughts on preserving the 15-minute loading zone year-round and restrict the north side from November 1 and April 1.

Wadinski agrees with the loading zone and no parking here to corner but is hesitant about seasonal winter parking as it was not mentioned in the packet. Since the agenda wording was broad, Rasmussen felt seasonal parking could be considered as long as it is confined to the north side.

Neal moved to approve the loading zone delineation, no parking back to corner delineation, and adding no parking from November 1 to April 1 west of the loading zone. Larson seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Wadinski the dissenting vote.

Discussion and possible action on Detour Agreement with WisDOT regarding Project ID 6999-12-71, CTH U Bridge over USH 51

Rasmussen explained that last fall an over height vehicle struck the underside of the bridge and damaged a number of supports. The DOT will have to take the bridge out of service and make necessary repairs. Wesolowski stated the on ramp to USH 51 south at Hwy K will be closed and the DOT needs to detour traffic. The detour will be Business 51 southbound through the Campus Drive intersection, up Merrill Avenue and down the Hwy U ramp. The DOT is asking for permission to route Hwy K traffic and the on-ramp traffic. They would agree to maintenance during the closure. They will log the roads before and if there is any excess wear, they will fix it.

Wadinski moved to approve the detour as requested. Neal seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Rasmussen noted the need to watch the traffic flow to make sure there is not a tremendous impact to adjacent properties. Wesolowski added that USH 51 will be down to one lane of traffic in each direction during the construction period.

Discussion and possible action on proposed 2023 Street Construction Projects and Five-Year Plan

Wesolowski presented the 2023 to 2027 plan. For 2023, the previous plan did include 10th Avenue and Grant Street. Henrietta Street was originally scheduled for 2025 but was moved up to 2023. Jackson Street was removed from 2023. Jackson Street was so deteriorated that DPW did a partial overlay. It has held together for the last two years so it has been removed from the list. 2024 remained the same with the exception of adding Stewart Ave, which will be funded by the DOT and TID 10.

Stark Street remains in 2025 and 8th Avenue was added. 2026 includes Randolph Street, 3rd Avenue and Eldred Street. This area has some of the worst watermain in the City as far as breaks, so it makes sense to complete 3rd Ave and Eldred at the same time as Randolph. 11th Avenue was pushed to 2027 and Fulton Street, 1st Street/River Drive were added. This can fluctuate, but staff would like to hold this schedule as it helps with future planning. Year 2023 is the most important to settle on as we need to start planning, especially with today's economy. We may be in a situation where the Water and Sewer Departments may have to preorder materials in June to have for next April/May.

Engineering applied for funding for 17th Avenue through the State LRIP program and we have secured \$400,000 of funding. The LRIP program is less intense than STP Urban funding as far as design. We will design it inhouse and go through the process. The construction cost is about \$1.2 million, so with the \$400,000 grant, we will have to come up with \$800,000. We do not want to turn away money but if we accept the \$400,000, we have a commitment to come up with \$800,000. That would wipe out 10th Avenue and Henrietta leaving only Grant Street in 2023. We could possibly look for ARPA funds for the other streets. Rasmussen feels 17th Ave would get a resounding cheer from the community as the road is very bad. If we were to request ARPA for a portion of a project, she feels it would make sense to request for the other three older streets and use bond borrowing for 17th. Replacing water and sewer and irradiating lead is a fit for ARPA and probably more prevalent in the other three streets. Wesolowski agreed and noted the costs on the 5-year plan do not include sewer, water, and storm sewer costs. We would have to find a way to offset the street costs. Rasmussen asked if any streets were in the census track where we could get Block Grant help. Per Wesolowski, Henrietta may be the only street.

Wesolowski indicated that 17th Ave came as a surprise. When we applied for LRIP funding for 17th Ave, the funding was supposed to be a 50/50 split. This is a state-wide competitive grant and there were only 39 projects throughout the state awarded money. The state decided to cap out the contribution amount to \$400,000. Rasmussen asked if there would be any cost savings from 2022 projects. Wesolowski replied we are already short in 2022 with the way the bids are coming in.

Ryan emailed a few weeks ago about the June 1 deadline for infrastructure through the state. She asked if some of the 5-year projects could be included in the June 1 application deadline. Wesolowski stated there were a couple of different deadlines. The Bipartisan Infrastructure has a 2022 deadline and a 2023 through 2026 deadline. The 23-26 deadline is what Ryan is referring to. Wesolowski is looking at submitting projects for that. However, there are stipulations; it has to be a collector or arterial street and it cannot be on a connecting highway. Only 17th Avenue would meet those stipulations. The 2022 deadline already passed, and he did put in an application for 18th Street from East Wausau Avenue to the high school. This project also has stipulations; it is a fast-track project and we do not know if we will get the funding. It would have to be bid later this year through the DOT process with funding incumbered next year. If we do get the funding, it would be 80/20. The MPO urged us to apply, but we do not know the funding level. The DOT will not know until May. Rasmussen noted that until the budget is finalized, street reconstruction projects can be shifted or delayed. It makes sense to her to move forward with a full list and if we find we are not funded or cannot meet the construction or spend down timeline, we can subsequently adjust. Wesolowski added that we are applying for all the funding we are aware of. For the 2022 cycle, only Wausau and the Village of Weston applied; for the 2023-2026 cycle other MPO communities will have funding requests.

Rasmussen believes that what is on the list needs to be done. Projects for 2024 were projects delayed two years ago. Doing the 2026 streets together makes sense but will have a robust system of detours. The entire area will be affected; Marathon Electric traffic will have to be rerouted. We cannot have a situation that impacts the school like the mess on 3rd Avenue.

Larson does not have a problem with the list but does have a problem that more streets cannot get fixed faster. He questioned the number of streets that will get overlaid with asphalt. He noted the intersection of Grand and Kent. He is surprised a motorcycle has not gone down because of the poor condition. Wesolowski stated the overlay budget this year is \$250,000 and includes the intersection of Grand and Kent. The intersection is concrete and typically the joints would be cut out and repaired with concrete; however, the intersection is too far gone. We will grind down the concrete and overlay the intersection. 6th Street from Forest Street to Scott Street will also be overlaid. We will also use some overlay money to mill 10th Street north of Townline with DPW to pave.

Rasmussen asked if we were only allowed to apply for reconstruction projects. Wesolowski does not believe so. The issue is we have to balance; we do not like to overlay older streets due to lead lateral replacements. Rasmussen feels we may have to coordinate since we wanted to do a partial lead lateral project with some ARPA funding. We should look at the pavement situation and underground utilities and coordinate around older streets. Lindman said that is what is driving the street list. We look at the pavement and maintenance of the infrastructure underneath it. We have the new lead and copper rule and will be putting together a lead service line replacement plan for the DNR. That will outline how we will replace lead lines, how many a year, and the approach of the \$80 million project. Discussion followed.

Neal said the list is thoughtfully constructed and we know there could shuffling if need be. Neal moved to approve the list as presented. Larson seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on amending Wausau Municipal Code Section 10.10.020 Permitted Deviations

Neal feels this was explained well in the packet and moved to approve. Wadinski seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on accepting dedication of right-of-way for Timber Trail Drive

Wesolowski explained a one lot CSM is proposed to sell off a portion of Timber Trail Drive. Dedicating this as right-of-way will preserve a corridor for the next phase of the subdivision. If the right-of-way is not dedicated and the lot sold, we would have to go back to the owner and request the right-of-way.

Neal moved to approve. Wadinski seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Larson has received comments from citizens regarding City Hall and how the building looks terrible. The sign is discolored and there are black streaks from the windows. He asked if it was up to this committee to start moving forward to spruce up the building before it decays further. Lindman stated the new facilities manager is putting together a laundry list of projects such as power washing the outside, grates on the windows, and other projects around the building. Those will be packaged into CIP projects if large enough; otherwise, the operating budget would be used. Lindman does not know what will get done this summer with the budget we have. Larson feels the way the building looks reflects on the City. Rasmussen wants to have a discussion at Finance regarding a long-term facility maintenance plan.

Adjourn

Wadinski moved to adjourn the meeting. Neal seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.