

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

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

Members Present: Lou Larson, Doug Diny, Gary Gisselman, Chad Henke, Lisa Rasmussen

Also Present: Mayor Katie Rosenberg, Eric Lindman, Allen Wesolowski, TJ Niksich, Cord Buckner, Dustin Kraege, Lori Wunsch

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 Larson called the meeting to order.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting

B. Action on Stormwater Maintenance Agreement with Badger Liquor Co. Inc. at 9913 Innovation Way

Gisselman moved to approve the consent agenda items. Diny seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on State/Municipal Agreement regarding East Wausau Avenue from North 6th Street to North 18th Street

Rasmussen moved to approve. Seconded by Gisselman.

Larson asked when this project would be completed. Wesolowski said it is on the State's 7-year program. Typically, it takes a minimum of 3 years by the time a consultant is selected and design completed. Larson said the street needs it. Wesolowski feels this is good news as staff has been requesting this for a while and the State finally agreed. This is the street Wesolowski gets the most complaints about.

Larson questioned the \$58,500 for design costs and thought this was taken care of by the State. Wesolowski explained all construction costs are covered by the State, other than sewer and water. Typically, the City is responsible for 25% of engineering costs for connecting highways. Larson asked if sewer and water costs would come back at a future date for funding. Wesolowski responded that sewer and water costs would be included in a future budget.

Diny asked if sewer and water replacement is a given or if the road work could be done without it. Per Lindman, when we know the year construction will take place, sewer and water will be budgeted for within the utility. The utilities do need to be replaced.

Gisselman has been hearing complaints about this road and feels the district will be glad to hear it is on the horizon. He questioned why it stops at 6th Street. Wesolowski indicated that 5th Street is newer concrete pavement and in good shape. Gisselman has also received complaints about the island in front of Athletic Park.

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

Discussion and possible action on extension of Kickbusch Street to Washington Street and entering into a development agreement with Wausau School District

Wesolowski has had meetings with the school district. They are willing to build this road and have asked if the City would be willing to enter into a development agreement where the City would take the road over once they build it.

Larry Cihlar, Wausau School District, explained this has been in referendum planning for 3 years. This would address the dead-end situation at Hawthorne Hills School. There is congestion particularly at drop off and pick up times. So much so that there is a concern of getting emergency vehicles in if needed. It is difficult for parents

and people do not make the best driving decisions when it gets congested. The street would be designed and built to City specifications. Once built, the school district does not have a purpose or desire to own a city street. They would look to turn the street over to the City.

Given our affinity for smooth traffic flow, Rasmussen believes the extension makes sense. With road construction costs, it makes sense to partner with the district, especially since they have funds available to complete the extension. As long as it is built to our specs and they address design and storm water issues, this is a good partnership to have. School safety is close to her heart and being able to move emergency vehicles in and out of an area quickly is critical.

Rasmussen moved to approve the plan and direct staff to work with the school district to negotiate an agreement. Seconded by Diny.

Diny asked if this was 100% school property. Cihlar confirmed. Wesolowski noted that it is on school district property with the exception of where it hooks up to existing 14th Street right-of-way. Diny asked if there is a need to look at how traffic will flow on Washington Street and what will change in traffic flow for pickup and drop off. Cihlar stated the biggest advantage is it will not be one way in and one way out. There would be a bus drop off and cars would circle into the parking lot, drop the student off, and exit. They have engaged the Police Department and the city about the best flow.

Wesolowski has looked at traffic impacts. Washington Street was reconstructed with the exception of one block west of 14th Street. This block is in rough shape and does not have curb and gutter. That block would have to be overlaid at a minimum or reconstructed. He anticipates Washington Street traffic between 10th Street and 14th Street would increase.

Gisselman asked if any thought was put into bike or pedestrian accommodations. He feels it would be a good way for some students to get into the area. Cihlar anticipates sidewalk would run along one side of the street. Gisselman feels it would be a good loop for a future bicycle route. Cihlar said that was not thought about. He does not know what implications that would mean for the road and what it would connect to on either end. He will work with the city and discuss what that would mean from a planning perspective.

Rasmussen indicated there has been past discussions about installing sidewalk at a width that can accommodate bicycles and pedestrians off street rather than having a separate bike path. Gisselman would like some separation or delineation between the two.

Wesolowski said a future design can be brought back. At this point, staff wanted to make sure the committee is aware of this proposal and supported it. Cihlar anticipates beginning clearing and testing this fall as well as getting as much excavation done as they can this fall. Construction of the street would be next summer with the hope to wrap it up before the next school year.

Henke asked about the right-of-way to the west. Wesolowski explained it is existing right-of-way from an old plat. The school district will be submitting a new plat. Cihlar said they have briefly talked about that right-of-way. It does not affect what they are proposing but it would be a good time to clean it up.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve the proposed plan and direct staff to work with the school district on a development agreement carried unanimously 5-0.

Cihlar asked about the future timeline for approvals as they need to dovetail with school board approvals. Wesolowski believes the next step would be a plat or CSM that dedicates the right-of-way. The development agreement would be handled by staff. It would be relatively simple since money does not exchange hands.

Discussion and possible action on roadway width of Bugbee Avenue

Niksich stated that the Wausau Municipal Code sets a minimum roadway width of 32'. Once we got into design and closer to construction of Bugbee, staff met with some residents who were concerned with having driveways

reduced. Residents east of McCarthy Boulevard would have lost 8' to 10' of driveway. Staff shifted the road to the north to maintain driveways. Just east of Tierney the road would narrow to 24'. This was discussed with all affected residents, and all are in agreement.

Rasmussen thanked Niksich and Wesolowski for being willing to work with the neighbors. Some were losing substantial sections of driveway and a substantial piece of their front yard. Bugbee will shift into land the City already owns while minimizing impacts to the homeowners. The piece that is being narrowed is a dead end that only serves one driveway on each side. She is grateful staff worked with the residents.

Gisselman asked if any trees would be affected. Rasmussen said there will be less trees lost this way. One particular tree on the south side still has to go.

Henke moved to approve. Rasmussen seconded and the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Discussion and update on DPW Fleet Maintenance Shop site

Lindman said the direction from CISM was to look at the West Street site the County owns. Conversations were held with the County, who is going through a West Side Master Plan. They are contemplating using their West Street property for expansion of the park by putting an ice arena and sport complex in that area. This would still leave the Wausau Manufacturing site and possibly a piece of what the County owns. It did not sound like there was an overwhelmingly want to have DPW on that property. Staff will look specifically at the Wausau Manufacturing property, which is 6 acres, to see if it would suffice. Staff is looking at doing costs estimates on various sites, which will be brought back.

Larson said County plans could change in time. Lindman indicated when the West Side Master Plan comes out it will give further direction. Diny asked if the County could potentially be interested in the Wausau Manufacturing site for an ice rink. Lindman said the County discussed they would like to move the ice arena and possibly put a sports complex to the south. He does not know how that would lay out. It is just one of the options with the Master Plan. Once the Master Plan comes out, we will have a better idea. He hopes to see a draft within the next couple of months.

Rasmussen said there is not a lot of urgency for the County; there is more of an urgency on our part. We could reasonably predict that it is not going to be their goal to acquire land. She feels it would be better for us to look at the option of Wausau Manufacturing than to expect the County to look at Wausau Manufacturing as an option. Larson agrees and stated the County has the whole field behind the stage to use as well.

Larson noted that it looks like someone is building on Westwood Drive. Rasmussen heard that the private sector is building a rehab center. The whole area was intended to be a medical campus. We have not been asked to participate or contribute so we know less about the project. We briefly looked at the Business Campus even though there was a concern with the commute. She noted that with City growth, what seems like the outskirts today may not be 20 years from now. She would like to take a second look at the Business Campus and see if there are any odd shaped parcels not suitable for development or not marketable for manufacturing use. Lindman stated staff can look. The majority of the fleet (PD, Fire, DPW) is in the center of the city and he does not think that will change. Rasmussen is trying to mitigate land acquisition costs. Lindman agreed that anything we already own would reduce the cost.

Construction update for 2022 Projects

Niksich stated Project A consists of the reconstruction of Bugbee and watermain replacement on Burek and Campus. The project is moving forward and is on schedule. Watermain was completed on Campus and they are moving south on Burek. Bugbee reconstruction will start after watermain work is done. Bugbee is expected to begin middle to late August. Project B is 4th Avenue. Work is being done within the intersection of Bridge Street and 4th Avenue. They will finish the south lanes and then flip traffic to the south side. The project is moving forward and is on schedule. Project C consists of the reconstruction of Torney Avenue between Townline Road and McDonald Street. This project is currently out to bid with bids opening on Tuesday. The Business Campus

Trail Project is also out to bid with the bid opening Tuesday. Construction may start the end of this year. Possible material shortages with the late bidding process may push the project back a bit. Alley paving is taking place between 9th and 10th Avenues off Cedar Street. DPW is adding storm sewer this week. Haas will begin work on the alley next week. 4th Street will begin the end of August or early September.

Wesolowski stated work at the intersection of Grand and Kent is complete, with only striping remaining. Sewer manholes have been reconstructed on 6th Street from Jackson Street to Scott Street. They have poured concrete and are giving that time to cure before placing asphalt on the milled section. They anticipate wrapping up the end of next week. The Concrete Pavement Repair Project will begin mid to late August. The Sidewalk Repair Project is ongoing and should be completed mid-August.

Adjourn

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