

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Lou Larson, Tom Neal
(Debra Ryan and James Wadinski were excused)

Also Present: Mayor Rosenberg, Eric Lindman, TJ Niksich, Cord Buckner, Tara Alfonso, Dustin Kraege, Chris Barr, Lori Wunsch
By WebEx: Sarah Gerarden, Jack Wagner, Colton Swetlik, Jake Neerdaels, Abigail Becker, Derek H/Gary R – UW Capstone, Gavin Luter, Jan Kucher

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.

Presentation by UW Madison Students on Grand Avenue, 6th Street and Forest Street intersection design alternatives

Rasmussen noted this item will provide a look at what options may be possible and gives UW Students some experience at presenting.

Sarah Gerarden introduced the team of Concentric Engineering Consultants. They have been working on the redesign of the Grand Avenue and Forest Street intersection as part of their senior Capstone Design class at UW Madison. They provided a project background, project constraints, design alternatives and design recommendations. The full presentation can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxk02NBpk2c>.

Rasmussen asked if they were confident this infrastructure would accommodate the largest emergency apparatus the City owns. They used a design vehicle that was 67' long, such as a semi-trailer, with the assumption that would be much larger than any kind of emergency vehicle. They feel an emergency vehicle would fit into their roundabout design.

Lindman noted the approaches to the roundabout were designed at 30 degrees. He asked if it could be more or less than 30 degrees and if 30 degrees was felt to be the best option for the area. Jack Wagner indicated 30 degrees is typical for most roundabouts. It could be changed, but only by small margins. 30 degrees was used as it is standard, gives cars enough time to slow down, and can accommodate large vehicles.

Presentation and discussion of Director's Report

There were no questions on the Director's Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve minutes of the November 11, 2021 meeting**
 - B. Action on preliminary resolution for 2022 Street Construction Projects**
 - C. Action on preliminary resolution for 2022 Alley Paving Projects**
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Neal moved to approve the consent agenda items. Larson seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Discussion and possible action on no parking on the south side of Strowbridge Street from 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue

Rasmussen noted the committee addressed the block to the east a couple of years ago because parking made removing snow difficult. There is a similar problem in the block between 1st and 2nd Avenues. It is across from apartment buildings and should have minimal disruption to residents. Lindman added that the width of the roadway is narrow; around 21' to 25'. Adding parking restrictions is highly recommended.

Larson moved to approve no parking on the south side of Strowbridge Street from 1st Avenue to 2nd Avenue from November 1 to April 1. Neal seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Discussion and possible action on parking restrictions in the 600 block of Fulton Street

Buckner explained this is mostly housekeeping as the existing postings are not in ordinance. The current posting includes no parking on the north side of the 600 block. The south side is posted no parking here to corner on the east end. No parking back to corner is posted on the west end. We are looking to remove the no parking on the north side as there does not seem to be a need for it. It was most likely posted when East High School was located there. Staff is looking to add no parking here to corner on the north side, west end, to accommodate a railroad warning device and a driveway.

Larson moved to approve. Neal seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Discussion and possible action on speed limit in alley between 6th Avenue and 7th Avenue bordered by Oak Street and Cedar Street

This request was brought forward by Alder Watson due to speeding causing accumulating water to splash on houses. PD and Engineering were asked to look at the alley to determine whether a speed adjustment or something else would address the issue.

Based on the complaints, a radar collector was installed on the south end of the alley. The data showed an average speed around 9 MPH with the 85th percentile around 11 MPH, which is below the state statute fix limit of 15 MPH in alleys. There was no crash history associated with the alley. Only 1 other general speeding complaint in alleys was received in the last two years, which was not associated with this alley. DPW reviewed the condition of the alley as water ponding in potholes could potentially cause splashing at or below speed limit. Potholes were filled and DPW will evaluate for other potential modifications. Speed does not appear to be the issue.

Rasmussen feels altering the speed limit is only as good as enforcement being able to monitor traffic. In situations with a speed problem, targeted enforcement is better than new signage. It appears only a few users are causing the problem. Discussions have taken place about potentially vacating a portion of the alley or petitioning to pave the alley. Neal feels vacating the alley up to the property that needs it for access would stop it from being a thoroughfare.

Larson asked if the residents would be responsible to place barricades if vacated or if a speed bump could be placed in the alley. Rasmussen asked if the curb cut would be removed if vacated. Lindman stated it could be, but if vacated it becomes private property. He can check with Wesolowski on prior practice.

Neal questioned if there are utilities in the alley. Buckner stated there is a utility pole roughly 3 properties from the south end. Rasmussen added that lines run the length of the alley; an easement would remain for the utilities.

Larson asked if a speed bump could be considered if the alley cannot be vacated. Lindman said speed bumps have been considered in other alleys when they are paved. The City does not plow alleys so a speed bump could be up for discussion.

Action was deferred on this item.

Adjourn

Neal moved to adjourn the meeting. Larson seconded and the motion carried unanimously 3-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.