

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: December 12, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Chad Henke, Lou Larson, Michael Martens, Tom Neal, Sarah Watson

Also Present: Mayor Diny, Eric Lindman, Allen Wesolowski, TJ Niksich, Jillian Kurtzhals, 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 Henke called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting

Larson moved to approve the minutes of the November 14th meeting. Seconded by Watson and the motion passed 5-0.

Update on roadway design for Wausau Downtown Streets Redevelopment

Becher Hoppe and SRF provided updated drawings. Staff has been meeting weekly with Becher Hoppe going through the utility and streetscape design, which are at 90%. They will be getting the city plans within the next week for the Park Department, Engineering, Sewer, and Water to review. The plan is to bid in mid-January with construction anticipated to start in April pending the weather. Construction will last all summer and includes Washington Street, Jackson Street, and 3rd Street.

Larson asked where the \$4 million for this project will be coming from. Lindman stated it will be from the TID. Larson asked if the TID will support the development with no costs going to city debt. Lindman confirmed.

Henke does not see too many big changes since the last update. Wesolowski said the trees, lighting, and colored concrete sections are now shown. It will be similar yet a little different from the rest of the downtown.

2025 Street Reconstruction Projects: Discuss public hearing results and make recommendation

The packet was updated to include the minutes from the public hearing, which was held by the Board of Public Works. Staff recommends moving ahead with the projects, which are Randolph Street, Cherry Street, Fulton Street, 1st Street/River Drive, and 2nd Street.

Larson moved to accept the 2025 Street Reconstruction Projects. Neal seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

2025 Alley Paving Project: Discuss public hearing results and make recommendation

There were a few comments on this project mostly in favor. The petitioner was present, and others appeared in favor. The estimated assessment rate is \$15 per foot. That rate will vary depending on what the asphalt bid is. Staff recommends moving ahead with the alley project, which is between 1st Ave, 3rd Ave, Sherman Street, and Rosecrans Street.

Neal referred to a different alley project where water had been directed onto another property. He asked if any similar issues were on the radar for this alley. Wesolowski said topo work has not been done on the alley, but it appears to have adequate drainage to the north and south to get water out of the alley to the streets. The existing alley is basically crushed granite and an impervious surface. We will look at drainage before the project is bid. Staff does not anticipate any drainage issues.

Neal moved to approve. Seconded by Watson and the motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on resolution to open 28th Avenue in 2025

Henke asked for this resolution due to the petitions received to open the street. It would be for one year while we make up our mind on what we want to do in 2026 when the street is scheduled to get permanently redone.

Wesolowski met with DPW and this would require more than just patching as there is undermining of the road. We will have to pullout the pavement to see what is undermined, add base course to fill the holes and repave. It would not include ditching and would not take care of any drainage issues or future washouts. The cost is estimated at \$65,000 for the area from Maple Creek Drive to Maryanne Lane. Henke asked if that was enough to get the hill open and Wesolowski confirmed.

Watson asked where the budget for this would come from. Lindman stated it would have to come back for a budget modification through Finance and Council. This is just to get the road back open. He explained that a significant rainfall undermined the pavement. We are not proposing to do any work as far as stormwater collection. If we have similar events, this could happen again. If so, staff would propose to close the road again until it is reconstructed in 2026.

Neal asked if the undermining was a result of an event or multiple events over time. He questioned the prognosis for one year with the temporary fix. Lindman said it could have been from a few events back-to-back. It is hard to know when the undermining started. There are significant issues with stormwater that will have to be addressed when the road is reconstructed.

Neal asked if riprap could be added to the side of the road to help control the undermining. Wesolowski stated there is not a significant ditch cut there now. Some of the ditch has been paved. He does not think there is a good temporary fix for this. The rock is shallow, which is one of the issues for cutting a ditch. There is not a place to put riprap.

If we spend \$65,000 in 2025, Martens said there is no expectation that 28th Avenue will remain open when we reconstruct the road in 2026. In essence this is just a very short-term fix, and it could be money spent for nothing. Larson agrees. He feels for the community and thinks the city and county has let them down over the years by letting the road deteriorate to the point it had to be closed. It is simply unsafe and a liability issue. He cannot see throwing good money into something bad. If we spend \$65,000 and have a rainstorm that washed it out again, we are out that money. He would hate to see a Band-Aid approach and have it wash out again. He believes this is not a good situation either way you look at it and will vote against it.

Neal said the points are well taken. One should not throw money where it might get washed away. We have had overwhelming feedback from people in support of keeping the road open. It does have a plan to be redone, and this committee does not control the purse strings. He would support looking at the financial feasibility of doing the repair.

Henke moved to approve. Neal seconded and the motion failed 2-3 with Larson, Martens, and Watson the dissenting votes.

This item will be sent to Finance and Council.

Adjourn

Watson moved to adjourn the meeting. Neal seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.