

## BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Date of Meeting: December 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers

Members Present: Eric Lindman, Anne Jacobson

Also Present: Allen Wesolowski, TJ Niksich, 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.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: 2023 Street Construction Projects**

**Henrietta Street from Bellis Street to 13<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Grant Street from North 6<sup>th</sup> Street to North 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

**10<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Oak Street to West Wausau Avenue**

**North 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Stewart Avenue to Elm Street**

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Lindman explained the purpose of the meeting is to take comments from property owners regarding special assessments. The comments received are forwarded to the Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee (CISM) which will meet December 8, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. CISM will approve, disapprove, or modify the plans or assessments for the project and forward a recommendation to the Common Council. It is anticipated the Common Council will take action at the January 10, 2022 meeting. There were no objections to dispense with the reading of the official hearing notice.

Lindman indicated the 2023 street assessment rate is set at \$55 per foot. The sewer lateral is \$500 if replaced. Drive approach replacement is estimated at \$6.50 per square foot. Replacement of defective sidewalk is estimated at \$8.00 per lineal foot and installation of new sidewalk is estimated at \$16.00 per lineal foot.

Lindman stated staff from the Engineering Department will be available after the public hearing if there are specific questions about individual properties or the work to be done under the project.

Niksich explained all four projects are similar in scope. They consist of full reconstruction and replacement of utilities. The projects were chosen because the roadways have lasted longer than the typical design life and normal maintenance operations are cost prohibitive. The underlying utilities are failing or near failing. Typically construction season is between May 1 and October 31. We will not allow the contractor to work that entire length. Projects are usually limited to a certain number of days. Large projects typically take three months and smaller projects, similar to Grant Street, typically take a month to 45 days. A letter will be sent prior to construction with what to expect as far as getting to your property, street travel, access to driveways, garbage collection, and temporary water service. Because the water main will be replaced, a temporary water service will be hooked up. The temp service should not affect you other than allowing the contractor to come in to make sure air has been removed from your line. The letter will also include information on newly poured concrete, landscaping, and mail delivery. During the project we will set up temporary mailboxes. Usually a cluster of boxes will be placed in a couple of locations to ensure mail delivery is not interrupted.

Property owners should have received two letters; one informing of the public hearing with estimated assessments and the other requesting basic information on your property, such as if there is a sump pump or sprinkler system and your requested drive approach width. We request that these are returned as soon as possible so we can move forward with design and bid out the projects in January. We also ask for construction access during the project. The main disturbance would be where we connect water and sewer service and would have to go 5' to 10' into your property. If sidewalk is replaced there would be a 1' to 2' encroachment. The areas will be fully restored with topsoil and seed by the contractor.

At this time, Lindman opened the public hearing and asked for persons in attendance who wished to speak regarding special assessments to come to the podium and give their name, address, and comments.

Jesse Modrzejewski, 1016 Henrietta Street, stated he just had new sidewalk put in and there is nothing wrong with his drive approach. He doesn't want it ripped out and have to pay thousands of dollars again. Nicksich indicated if sidewalk is new and not in poor condition it would not be removed. It would be removed if it is in the way of the sewer and water services. If that is the case, the walk would be replaced at no charge to the owner. The approach will likely have to be replaced in order to get new curb. Modrzejewski said there is nothing wrong with it and doesn't want it ruined just because it is easier for the City. If someone is replacing a window, they are not going to rip down a wall because it is easier. He does not understand why his driveway would be ripped up when there is nothing wrong with it. Lindman indicated this meeting is for comments on special assessments. Specific questions can be answered after the meeting. To match grade for the street and for drainage, approaches will most likely have to be torn up. Modrzejewski feels it is just ruining things at the property owner's expense because it is easier for the City.

Jacobson noted comments have been taken and this is not supposed to be an exchange or question and answer session. The points are well taken and noted for the record. Property owners can talk directly with the engineers after the hearing.

Nick Schroeder, 515 North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked how people on a fixed income can afford this and why doesn't the City offer an interest free repayment plan on the taxes.

Wesolowski read into record comments received from Lukas Loveland of 1222 Henrietta Street. Loveland is not in favor of the assessments and does not feel he can afford a \$4,000 bill.

Matt Krasowski, 117 South 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, said there is no reason for sidewalk from Stewart Ave to Elm Street to be removed. It is flat and always maintained. He can understand the drive entry but there is no reason to replace the sidewalk. The amount of money charged for his 123' of frontage is pretty substantial; imposing around a \$20,000 assessment on his property. He would like the sidewalk and driveway left alone. He just put in new blacktop and doesn't need that ripped up. The curb and gutter is good and he was told the laterals were great when the building was built 10 years ago.

Jason Bombagi, 608 North 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, said the City redid his lateral in winter when it froze and broke. His approach and sidewalk were redone when Bridge Street was reconstructed. He does not see any reason for his approach or sidewalks to be ripped up.

No further comments were received, and the public hearing was closed.

Lindman moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jacobson and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20 pm.