

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Date of Meeting: December 11, 2024, 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:

2025 Street Construction Projects:

Cherry Street from West Wausau Avenue to Randolph Street

Randolph Street from Burek Avenue to Merrill Avenue

Fulton Street from North 1st Street to North 7th Street

1st Street/River Drive from McIndoe Street to 300' north of Fulton Street

2nd Street from Short Street to Dekalb Street

2025 Alley Paving Project:

Alley bounded by South 1st Avenue, South 3rd Avenue, Sherman Street, and Rosecrans Street

Lindman explained the purpose of the meeting is to take comments from property owners regarding special assessments for street and alley reconstruction project assessments. The comments received are forwarded to the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee which will meet December 12, 2024 at 5:15 p.m. Infrastructure and Facilities will approve, disapprove, or modify the assessments for the project and forward a recommendation to the Common Council. It is anticipated the Common Council will take action at the January 14, 2025 meeting. There were no objections to dispense with the reading of the official hearing notices.

Lindman indicated the 2025 alley paving assessment rate is estimated at \$15 per foot. The 2025 street assessment rate is set at \$55 per foot. The sewer lateral is \$500 if replaced. Drive approach replacement is estimated at \$8.00 per square foot. 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 projects.

Niksich will be a main point of contact during construction. The street project will be a major reconstruction of the road. There will be some inconveniences during the project, but they will hopefully be limited. Before construction, a letter will be sent with contact information for Niksich, the project inspector, and the contractor. The reconstruction will consist of the replacement of sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer. Some of the utilities are 20 feet deep, so the entire width of the road will be excavated. There will be portions of time when some will not have access to their driveway. You will be notified before that happens. Before the contractor leaves for the day the trenches will be closed and you will be able to get to your house. Contractors do work late hours and where they are working will change from when you leave in the morning and return in the evening. The roads will be closed to thru traffic. The only people that should be using the road is the contractor and people getting to and from their house.

Mail delivery will continue during the project; however, it is likely that clusters of temporary mailboxes will be set up for letter mail delivery. Any parcels will be saved at the post office and will have to be picked up. Letters will be sent out prior to this starting.

Garbage collection will happen on the normal day. Property owners are asked to bring their containers to the end of their driveway. If the garbage truck cannot get through, the contractor will bring containers to a near intersection for collection and then return the containers to the property.

When the watermain is being replaced, temporary water will have to be set up. A 2" PVC line will be placed on the street. The line will be buried at the driveway so it can be driven over. The line will be exposed along the sidewalk and other areas. It will be just like receiving your normal city water.

Drive approaches are replaced due to the change in grade. A lot of the streets have deteriorated because of poor drainage, so there will be some change in grade. When the approach is replaced, we ask that you stay off the driveway portion for about a week. By this time, utilities will be in and curb will be in so one can park in the street as long as it is not prohibiting construction work.

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.

Dale Burgoyne, 1702 Lenard Street, stated Cherry Street is bad and it will be good for those people to have the road done. The next street over is 1st Avenue, which has bad sections where people have to swerve to miss all the holes. It is a main thoroughfare to Burek Avenue and probably has 50 times the traffic of other streets. 1st Ave from Strowbridge Street to Randolph Street has been patched over for the past 30 years. Whoever decided to use cement to fill the holes should find another job because after that is put into the road it evaporates and settles and then you have the same hole. Lindman reminded Burgoyne that the public hearing is for special assessments related to the projects.

Daniel Klement, 1108 Cherry Street, asked if businesses have to pay the same \$55 per foot. There is major semi traffic up and down this street because of Marathon Electric. The semis go over the curb in front of his house, which is not good for the curb. The curb in front of his house is in bad shape. Wesolowski confirmed that the businesses pay the same rate of \$55 per foot.

Ron Keen, 906 South 1st Avenue, appeared regarding the alley. The last couple of years he has been asking for granite in the alley. Public Works only brings in a grader and roller when the holes get bad. It has been worn out so many years it is all sand. They dig down with the grader to build stuff up and pull up rocks. He asked Public Works last fall to patch the hole on the north end of the alley. DPW fixed the south end and blacktopped 40 to 50 feet up. They never filled the hole on the north end. So he asked how to get his alley fixed and started the petition. Public Works has graded a number of times but never put in granite. After one rainfall the potholes get bigger. It has cost the city a good deal of money to grade and roll every time instead of fixing it right. Lindman stated Public Works does alley maintenance based on complaints and as the crews go through the City and see issues. Keen said even the crews do not like doing it because it is a waste of time.

Annie Williams, 903 South 3rd Ave, said a lot of families only have access off the alley. There are people that are handicapped and need the alley. She is really happy to have this done as people need the alley. She is not affected because her house is on the corner and she has other access but there are families that do not have other access.

Blong Moua, 933 South 3rd Ave, does not have a problem with the alley project. He asked if a lump sum payment is required after the project. Wunsch explained that property owners would receive a special assessment bill after the project is completed. If the bill is not paid by October 31st, the amount would get rolled over to the tax bill and can be paid over a five-year period with the first installment of each tax bill.

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.