

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Date of Meeting: December 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers

Members Present: Eric Lindman, Anne Jacobson

Also Present: Carol Lukens, Allen Wesolowski, TJ Niksich, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2024 Street Construction Projects

Eau Claire Boulevard from Grand Avenue to west termini

Emerson Street from Eau Claire Boulevard to Kent Street

Mount View Boulevard from Eau Claire Boulevard to Kent Street

Pied Piper Lane from Eau Claire Boulevard to Kent Street

Short Street from North 1st Street to North 3rd Street

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 14, 2023 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 December 19, 2023 meeting. There were no objections to dispense with the reading of the official hearing notice.

Lindman indicated the 2024 street assessment rate is set at \$55 per foot. The sewer lateral is \$500 if replaced. Drive approach replacement is estimated at \$7.00 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 project.

Niksich explained there are two projects; Short Street from 1st Street to 3rd Street and Eau Claire Boulevard from Grand Avenue to the cul-de-sac. The projects are complete reconstruction, which includes replacing the water and sewer, roadway, curb, gutter, drive approaches, and extending water and sanitary services from the main to the right of way, which is typically the back of sidewalk. The look of the roadways in the field should remain the same. However, there are some proposed additions on both projects. Short Street is proposed to have sidewalk added on the south side of the road. Eau Claire Boulevard is proposed to have sidewalk added in the final block to the cul-de-sac on both sides.

Short Street is estimated to take 45 working days to complete. Eau Claire Boulevard is estimated to take 4 months to complete. During the project, residents should be able to get to and from their homes every day. However, there will be periods residents will not get to their homes. At the end of the day, the contractor will clean up the site to where residents can get back to their house. The working hours are 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. Vehicles are requested to be removed from your driveway by 6:00 am.

If the garbage truck cannot get to the homes for collection, the contractor will take the bins from your driveway to a nearby intersection and return them after collection.

Mail delivery has sometimes been abruptly stopped during construction. To avoid this, we will set up temporary mailboxes in a cluster. Short Street will likely have one location of mailboxes. Eau Claire Boulevard will probably have two to three locations. This will be throughout the length of the project. Parcels will not be delivered and will be kept at the post office. You will receive a notice to pick up your parcel at the post office.

During construction temporary water service will be provided. The contractor will dig down to the service connection at the right-of-way. A temporary water line will run the length of the project while the main is replaced.

There will be periods of time where you will not be able to use your driveway. This will be while concrete curb, and/or sidewalk and drive approaches are being installed. Typically, there is a seven-day cure time for new concrete. At this point the road should be in a gravel state and residents can park on the street.

A letter will be sent out one to two weeks before construction begins that goes over a lot of this information. Site safety is a key and we ask that everyone stay away from active construction.

Trees on Eau Claire Boulevard have been marked that will need to come out. Staff has worked with the City Forester to determine which trees are going to be removed. A lot of the trees marked for removal are due to service replacements, they are damaged, old, or too large for the boulevard. If the tree is marked with a white dot it will likely be removed. Eau Claire Boulevard has streetlights down the center median. The streetlights will be replaced with similar poles.

Sewer and water services will be replaced to the right-of-way. There is also an upcoming Lead Line Replacement Program. This will be under a separate contract. Property owners will be receiving more information from Wausau Water Works on this program. This project is scheduled to replace all lead lines from the main into the home.

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.

John Case, 113 Eau Claire Boulevard, shares a driveway with his neighbor. He asked how that gets assessed and if they would be receiving separate bills.

Roger Kohn, 912 Eau Claire Boulevard, shared concerns he and his neighbors have. It looks like they will be losing all of the trees in the cul-de-sac. Some are not that old and large. He noticed that over 30 trees were left on Kent Street. He wondered if there are any trees that could be saved. They get a flood on the cul-de-sac area because there is not a drain on the west end. He gets a lake in front of his driveway when there is heavy rain or spring thaw. He asked if that could be addressed by adding another drain. The drive approaches are in good condition and he does not know why they have to be redone. He has lived here for 55 years and there has never been a need for sidewalk. This is a peaceful, quiet neighborhood. They feel they would get a lot of additional children on skateboards and things of that nature coming into the neighborhood. He asked for consideration of not putting in the sidewalk and saving the city and residents money.

Theran Peterson, 416 Eau Claire Boulevard, has been in contact with City Forester John Kahon. In his professional career, Peterson teaches at Wausau West High School. They have a portable sawmill and request giving the trees a second life by allowing them to process and potentially offer them back to the residents as lumber.

Carol Lukens, Alder for District 1, was contacted by two residents who could not attend. The first resident is Gary Hayes of 905 Eau Claire Boulevard. He has concerns about sidewalk installation. He gave examples of the west side of Marshall Street that has no sidewalk; it is a paved path that is not usually plowed in the winter. Residents walk on the street. The east end of Marshall from Kent to Lake View does not have sidewalk. He feels that burden of extra cost for sidewalk is not warranted. The second resident is Zach Freiberg and Rachel Rhyner of 2401 Pied Piper Lane. They are concerned about the portion of Pied Piper not being redone with this project. They asked if the part from Lake View Drive to Eau Claire Boulevard could be included because the entire area from Lake View to Kent Street is in bad condition.

Case noted that improvements to the median were mentioned. He asked what the plan was. Lindman stated the center median will remain the same with the same width.

Lukens added that this is a huge job. She has received communications from many residents who are grateful for this.

Marshall Weidman, 147 Eau Claire Boulevard, works second shift. 6:00 am does not work for him to move his vehicle. He had heard there might be access by Firestone to park and asked if that would require a permit so he is not ticketed. Staff will speak with him individually to discuss.

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

Wesolowski explained that shared driveways are split at the property line. Assessments are sent to each property owner and they are billed separately. Regarding a drain at the end of the cul-de-sac, the curb and gutter and storm sewer will be replaced. The curb and gutter will be sloped so water drains out of the cul-de-sac. The remainder of Pied Piper will eventually be done but is not included in this budget. The center boulevard will remain at the same width. We will try to preserve the existing crab apple trees as the City Forester feels they are in good shape. They may need to be trimmed back but the intent is to save as many as we can. People are encouraged to park on side streets. We will notify the Police Department to not ticket cars on the side streets. If anyone has extenuating circumstances, there will be a full-time inspector on site who can be contacted to work out issues or concerns.

Wesolowski added that all comments will be forwarded to the CISM, who will make a recommendation to go ahead with sidewalk or not. Jurisdiction regarding the installation of sidewalk is with the Board of Public Works. If CISM recommends installing the sidewalk, it will come back to the Board of Public Works to order the sidewalk in. Staff feels it does not make sense to have sidewalk around the cul-de-sac that does not connect to anything. There have been calls from residents who want the sidewalk added.

Jacobson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lindman and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.