

Nawrocki indicated that we have problems getting full attendance for 6 p.m. meetings. Patty Muscovitz, City Clerk, indicated that the 6 p.m. meeting time was requested by Anoka County. Peterson asked Williams to adjust his schedule to attend the meeting. Nawrocki stated it was not fair of the County to limit the meeting to only two possible nights. Peterson stated that this time we can honor their request and ask for more flexibility in the future.

Motion by Diehm, second by Williams, to establish the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting date for Monday, April 11, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Upon vote: All ayes. **Motion carried.**

D. Request for Four-Way Stop Signs on 7th Street and 41st Avenue

Peterson stated that the Traffic Commission has recommended no signage at this site. Staff has suggested several alternatives. Kevin Hansen, Public Works Director, stated this item is an appeal of the Traffic Commission recommendation. Hansen indicated the criteria that staff looks at to determine signage, which includes traffic volume, vehicles and pedestrians, number of legs (4), approach speeds (30 mph), site distance, and the crash record. Determinations are guided by federal and state MUTCD restrictions, which regulate where signs can be placed for intersection control. Regulations are different for low volume residential streets. This street does not meet the criteria for the placement of stop signs. Staff looked at the possibility of installing yield signs and believes that the North and South entrance could use yield signs. Staff also reviewed removing parking within 20 feet from the intersection, and feels it would be beneficial. It remains staff's recommendation to look at yield signs for 7th Street and to restrict parking to improve visibility.

Diehm stated there are a number of similar intersections in this area. Is this looked at on a case by case basis or do we look at the surrounding area as well? Hansen stated both. The investigation is initiated when we get a request, such as 41st and Washington was in 2009 and we then also look at other intersections in the area. Diehm stated that she was involved in an accident at an uncontrolled intersection; residents realize these intersections are uncontrolled, but visitors may not. Hansen stated that at an uncontrolled intersection the rules are that the vehicle on the left yields to the vehicle on the right, or the first vehicle to the intersection has the right-of-way. Hansen stated the perception that stop signs stop accidents is not true. He referred to the false sense of security where stop signs are placed.

Peterson asked if the regulations include corners with churches. Whatever action is taken here we should also do at 41st and Washington. Hansen stated that land use is not considered. Speed, volume, and accidents are considered for sign determination. Peterson referred to the discrepancy in the number of accidents reported at this intersection. Hansen indicated that because of the dates, the last two accidents may not have been included. Fehst stated there was one in October 2010, but none reported through January 2011.

Nawrocki questioned the rationale for the stop sign at Jefferson and 41st Avenue. He stated it is typical to want stop signs in your area but not the areas you drive in. Nawrocki asked if the accidents were during church service dates and times. Hansen listed the times.

Abdulbaset Elhshik, Islamic Center of MN, 4056 7th Street, stated that their service times vary and the accidents were probably at that time. This request is also by surrounding residents and the church at Washington and 41st Avenue.

A resident living at 41st and 7th Street stated that on December 28, 2010 there was an accident on 42nd. Drivers do not mind the speed limits. He asked if stop signs were placed in one direction if

it would help. Hansen again gave the federal requirements.

Schmitt indicated that most churches in our community have a controlled intersection by their facility. These are the only two that do not. They sometimes share a parking lot, which results in many pedestrians crossing the street. She referred to the Traffic Commission site review. Hansen indicated the engineering process to review an intersection.

Eric Ness, 4057 7th Street, stated he lives on the Southeast corner and sees people driving 35 mph on 41st Avenue that do not check the other directions as they cross. For safety, this has to change. Peterson asked him in which direction would it be best to slow traffic. Ness stated that north and south is the least used. Diehm stated that on 7th Street from 40th through 44th Avenue there are no stop or yield signs.

Nawrocki stated the suggestions are reasonable and that we should consider both.

Motion by Nawrocki, to authorize installation of “Yield” signs on 7th Street and 41st Avenue, yielding traffic on 7th Street, based on the configuration of the intersection and the amount of pedestrian traffic generated by the nearby mosque and church, and to also designate “No Parking” for 20’ from the intersection on the approach lanes for 7th Street and 41st Avenue.

Nawrocki stated that 7th Street has historically been a through street in our city. Peterson asked if Nawrocki would consider adding to his motion yield signs at Washington Street for St. Matthews Church. Nawrocki asked if there should be a public hearing. Hansen stated this was brought forward by them in October of 2009. Peterson stated that we will try this and see if it works or we can review the results. Schmitt stated that yield signs are effective, but vehicles must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Hansen stated that removal of crosswalks at low volume intersections has improved safety. Schmitt recommended tabling this for resident input. Peterson again indicated that what is good for this intersection would also be good for the Washington intersection.

Diehm seconded the motion.

Peterson explained what this motion means and indicated that pedestrians do have the right-of-way. Hoefft stated that the law is specific on who has the right-of-way and we are unable to explain all of the various situations at this meeting.

Upon vote: All ayes. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Williams, second by Diehm, to authorize the installation of “Yield” signs on Washington Street (North and South) at 41st Avenue, and also designate “No Parking” for 20’ from the intersection on the approach lanes for Washington and 41st Avenue.

Schmitt asked when this would take effect. Hansen stated that signage is usually placed in mid to late April.

Upon vote: All ayes. **Motion carried.**

F. Approve Public Works Blanket Orders for 2011 Purchases

Nawrocki referred to stop box repair costs. Hansen stated the budgeted amount is based on past experience. He indicated the estimated costs to repair a curb stop and the process of the petition