



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 02, 2025 at 5:15 PM

Koska Room - Community House,
1520 17th Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:15 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Scott Stechmesser, Doug Brandt; **Absent:** Bill LeClair
Staff and Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the March 5, 2025, Public Works Committee meeting

Doug Brandt made a motion to approve the March 5, 2025, Public Works Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Scott Stechmesser. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

A. Adam Wachowski, 4120 Clover Street, Two Rivers

Mr. Wachowski stated that he was here to discuss and oppose the billings of sidewalk clearing completed by the Department of Public Works. He stated that in the past, this has been a complaint driven process and he is assured that there was no complaint made relating to snow on his sidewalk. He stated that on one end of his property there is another property with sidewalk that leads nowhere and the other end of his property leads to his neighbors grassy lawn. He also noted that, in the past, the property would be provided notice so they could take action to clear the sidewalks; and, if it had not been completed, then DPW would clear the appropriate sidewalks.

Mr. Wachowski also contends that the supreme court has stated that crosswalks are an extension of sidewalks and if the city does not clear the crosswalks why should they be required to clear the sidewalks. Inconsistent enforcement.

Mr. Wachowski stated that there are some extremely poor individuals within the city that cannot afford these types of bills. He also feels that a quarter of an inch of snow is passable in his opinion and should not be required to be cleared from the sidewalk. He feels that less than one inch of snow is not any different than electrical power cords crossing sidewalks.

B. Adam Coshow, 2540 45th Street, Two Rivers

Mr. Coshow appeared again and continued his argument that the snow shoveling costs were unsubstantiated and stated that statutorily those costs had to be specific costs for each incident not based upon averages. He requested the invoices be cancelled and those that have paid, receive refunds.

5. ONGOING PROJECT STATUS AND ACTION, IF NEEDED

A. Sandy Bay Highlands Phase 3 update

The contractor provided an update that, due to recent winter weather, they hope to return in the early part of May. If the weather pattern changes, they may try to start the last week of April. Primarily they have to complete the rest of the road grading and graveling, shape the terraces and restore the site.

There has been coordination with other utilities (WPS-gas, TR-Electric) about installing their facilities in the subdivision. WPS-gas will not come until the roads are graveled. TR-Electric and other associated utilities (fiber, telephone, cable, etc.) are looking at a joint installation and may be willing to come in the middle of April so that they are finished before our general contractor and WPS-gas begin.

One of the home builders is wanting to start soon and has been requesting an update as to when these other utilities will be installed.

B. Harbor Street, 16th Street and Emmet Street Reconstruction

Engineering did receive word from the WDNR that they are relatively certain their funding is in place. Bids were received and are favorable. We are working on assessment rates, assessment roles and appropriate notifications so that the Public Information Meeting and Hearing will be scheduled for April 21st at the Council Meeting followed by the award of the low, responsive bid to Vinton Construction.

C. Pierce Street update

Engineering will be receiving bids for this project on Thursday, April 3, 2025, and are tentatively scheduling the award of the contract at the April 7, 2025, City Council Meeting, presuming that bids are favorable.

D. Public Works Shop Repairs update

Moving forward at a snails pace. It appears that portions of the work will have to be bid, primarily the roof work, columns and service doors.

The air scrubber is scheduled to be delivered the week of April 7th and installed the week of April 14th.

E. Memorial Drive DOT Project update

Communication related to this project has been challenging. The general contractor provided little notice to the WDOT that they wanted to start the project on April 1, 2025, which is the earliest available start date. The project preconstruction meeting was held the morning of March 31st and the required public informational meeting that evening. The public informational meeting is to provide the general public an overview of the project along with potential impacts and allow the public and businesses the ability to prepare and plan alternate routes, deliveries, etc. With the construction beginning the following morning, the lead time wasn't provided to these property owners and impacted businesses that constantly utilize Memorial Drive. The city is in the process of obtaining some generic "business this way" signs to be placed at Columbus Street, Madison Street and Woodland Drive. Weekly progress

meetings will be held Wednesday mornings which engineering staff will participate in and report back to other departments to keep them informed as to progress and potential upcoming traffic challenges.

6. PROPERTY OWNER REQUESTS – N/A

7. DISCUSSIONS OR ISSUES ON HOLD, PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION

A. Snow Sidewalk Clearing

Doug Brandt stated that both parties that spoke during the Public Input portion of the agenda provided some valid points. He asked who is doing the tracking of complaints. Director Heckenlaible responded that all departments within the city could receive a complaint and either forward it to another department or deal with the issue directly, depending on where the issue is located.

Scott Stechmesser inquired about a fine plus cost to clear similar to what the City of Manitowoc and City of Green Bay have. There was also discussion as to why the City of Manitowoc can charge a flat \$300 fee. Director Heckenlaible stated that he didn't know the particulars but suspected that the \$300 was not a fee, but a penalty or fine associated with doing the snow clearing.

Scott Stechmesser implied that he had questions for the attorneys related to this matter and wished to postpone any formal action until responses could be provided.

Questions for the attorneys:

- Is the city required to clear crosswalks?
- Are crosswalks an extension of sidewalks?
- Can we change to a minimum fee or can we charge established employee and vehicle rates times average task times or do we have to charge for actual times for all phases of the process?
- Is there a difference between cost vs expense vs charge?
- Do the city's charges need to be comparable to the private sector?

Scott Stechmesser made a motion to table any further action until responses from the attorneys relative to the above and other questions can be obtained and discussed further. Doug Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Driveway/Approach Ordinance Revisions – No update

C. Pavement Repair Policy – No update

8. COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, INCLUSION IN FUTURE AGENDA AND ACTION, IF NEEDED – N/A

9. DISCUSS STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS (TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONTROL) - ACTION, ENDORSEMENT OR MODIFICATIONS, AS NEEDED

There was some clarification provided by Scott Stechmesser regarding the potential modification of posted speed on Mishicot Road from 41st Street to 45th Street. He stated the police department patrolled that area from March 5th to March 20th and recorded 28 incidents that involved excessive speed, loud exhaust, lack of registration and other infractions.

Upon review of the information Scott referred to, it is not 28 incidents but was 28 periods in which the police department patrolled the area. Twelve (12) incidents were recorded with warnings and citations being issued as applicable.

10. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED – N/A

11. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Proposed for May 7, 2025, at 5:15 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT: 7:01 pm

Doug Brandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Scott Stechmesser. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: *Matthew R. Heckenlaible*
Public Works Director/City Engineer