

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

August 3, 2022

The Committee met at 5:30 p.m. in Room 0041 of the Municipal Building. Members present were Alderpersons Dana Davis, Eric Schmid, Will Licht and Fred Smith. Also in attendance was Police Chief Robert Kaminski (arrived at 6:35 PM), Assistant City Engineer Andrew Beyer, Alex Allon representing the RDA (who was present by phone), and Alderperson Jonathon Lampe.

NOTE: Due to the fact that an incorrect phone number was part of the official meeting notice for attending remotely, this option was not available for this meeting.

1. **Roll Call:** All Committee members were present.
2. **Receive comments from the public:** No person wished to speak at this opportunity in the agenda.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** There was no meeting in July and no minutes needed approval.

Agenda Item 4.D and E were moved up for the convenience of those attending the meeting.

4.D Public Hearing for a proposed structure within the public right-of-way on S. Water Street: The RDA has requested our committee consider the installation of a large “community table” as part of the Town Square project and the reconstruction of S. Water Street. The RDA is requesting that the table be located within the right-of-way of S. Water Street on the library side of the street. A variance to occupy the right-of-way requires a public hearing before the Public Safety and Welfare Committee. The Public Hearing was opened and Alderman Lampe presented the concept justifying the requested variance. He stated the proposed location of the table is also requested by the Library Board, which hopes the variance will be approved to allow the placement of the table in front of the library’s large windows along S. Water Street facing the river. This will allow for inviting and maximum utility of the table and will add a safety factor to protect pedestrians and the library windows. Alex Allon related the fact that the table, which is extremely heavy, will remain in place throughout the year and will require only minimal maintenance. No one else wished to speak at the Public Hearing and it was closed.

4.E Review and take possible action on the variance request in Item 4.D above: The requested Variance for encroachment in the S. Water Street right-of-way was very positively received. The Committee felt it would be a very attractive addition to the combined Town Square area and adjoining Library frontage. It was also felt that any perceived encroachment would be marginal and that its value in enhancing the community’s use and enjoyment of the Town Square made it a very positive addition. A motion was made by Alderperson Davis, seconded by Alderperson Licht, to approve the request for the requested variance. This motion carried unanimously. **ACTION: No additional ACTION is required.**

4.A, B, and C Review and take possible action: Possible improvements to on-street parking on Dodge Street between 5th and 6th Streets; Addressing parking concern at the intersection of Dodge and S. 3rd Street; and Addressing parking concern at the intersection of Division and N. 4th Street: Each of these three concerns required information and perspective from the Police Department and due to the Chief’s unavailability (although he arrived just prior to adjournment) the items were all unanimously tabled until a future meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Alderperson Licht, seconded by Alderperson Schmid, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Smith, Chairman