

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Commission members present: Alders Bartz, Romlein, Ruetten, Wetzel, Commissioner Peter Thompson

City employees present:

Public Works Director/City Engineer (PWD/CE) Jaynellen Holloway

Street Department Superintendent Dan Zuelsdorf

1. Chairman Wetzel called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Comments and suggestions from citizens present

NONE present

3. Review and Approve Minutes from May 24, 2022

Motion to approve Ald. Romlein

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

4. Review and take possible action: one side parking on E. Main Street between Market - Irene

To prepare the Financial Agreement with WisDOT for the project east of Market Street(3050-04-70) the parking area needs to be clarified. Currently the street width does not provide enough room for parking on both sides of the street. To provide parking on one side of the street, the new centerline could be shifted two feet to provide more room on the side of the street with parking. An estimated cost for parking on one side of the street is \$150,000. Would the city like to provide parking on one side of the street, or should this segment be marked NO PARKING, or should the street be widened and provide parking on both sides of the street which would cost the City an additional \$150,000? Once discussed, engineering will respond back to WisDOT. It should be noted that this item was presented to the Public Safety & Welfare Committee (PS&W) at their May 4th meeting. That Committee made the recommendation to only provide parking on the north side of the street based on one resident's comments of current parking patterns and based on cost to the City. Resident letters were mailed out to all property owners along this segment of Main Street, but only one resident attended the PS&W meeting. Since the Public Works Commission is involved in Engineering standards of the City's streets, Engineering wanted to also bring this item before this body for discussion and determination.

Ald. Ruetten asked where the resident who attended that PS&W meeting (above) resides and the answer given was across from Dominos.

Ald. Romlein shared the idea that towns and transportation are changing and that we should be forward thinking in our consideration. For instance, he stated that by 2035 vehicle traffic will be solely electric and that people will be more pedestrian. Discussion followed concerning those thoughts.

Comm'r. Thompson stated that streets have had an 11' driving lane and 9' parking lane. These measurements have likely increased.

Ald. Ruetten asked if we are under contract. PWD/CE Holloway replied that we are not.

Ald. Ruetten asked if the overhead utilities would be underground. PWD/CE Holloway wasn't sure.

Comm'r. Thompson asked how the residents were notified. PWD/CE Holloway stated that each was mailed all the pertinent information from both the City and State.

Ald. Romlein motioned that the recommendation of the PS&W committee be accepted (parking on only the northside of Main St.). Motion failed due to lack of a 2nd.

Ald. Ruetten motioned for 2 parking lanes.

2nd by Comm'r. Thompson

Ald. Ruetten amended his motion with the following:
send the recommendation to the Finance Committee.

2nd by Comm'r. Thompson

Comm'r. Thompson asked that PWD/CE Holloway contact the State as to current drive and parking lane widths.

Carried by a 4-1 voice vote (Ald. Romlein in dissent).

5. Review and take possible action: contract with Behnke Materials for pavement testing for \$19,980.00

This is an annual contract for pavement testing under the Annual Street program, for which there is a budgeted item. Since it is the sole provider, purchasing policy requires that it come through Committee for approval under Section 2.3 (6). A resolution is not required.

Comm'r. Thompson stated that he has had very positive experiences with Behnke when he has worked with them and that they are ahead of the State in their work and processes.

Motion to approve Comm'r. Thompson

2nd Ald. Ruetten

Carried by unanimous voice vote

6. Review and take possible action: Watertown Signal & Communication Project revised total cost

The Street Division applied for in 2020 and received a grant from WisDOT in 2021 to upgrade the existing traffic signals to wireless technology on Main Street in the downtown area. With the multiple turnover in street superintendents since the grant award, the project has not moved forward and no funding was placed in the 2022 budget for this work. The improvements are very much needed. The Street Division is seeking direction on next moves. City funds the match in the 2022 budget and have the project completed this year or ask DOT if the grant funding can be carried over into 2023 and the City budget for this in 2023 (although there could be a cost increase in 2023)? With either option the City needs to communicate to the State how it wishes to move forward. Since the grant was awarded the cost to upgrade the signals has increased. The State will only fund 90% of the original grant award of \$87,500 = \$78,750. The City will need to provide the original 10% of the original cost \$8,750, and to do the whole project (which is needed) 100% of the cost increase of \$20,976. The State has asked the following:

- A. Do the entire project for a total cost of \$99,726, with the State paying \$78,750 and the City paying \$20,976.
- B. Eliminate portions of the project to bring the cost under that initial \$87,500. The State would pay \$78,750 and the city \$8,750 as initially planned.
- C. Push a portion of the project to a future fiscal year by applying and getting approved through the SISP program again. The total for FY23 would be the applied for \$87,500, and the new project could cover whatever was broken off. The State would pay \$78,750 and the city \$8,750 as initially planned and applied for on this project, then the same 90/10 split on the future project. Something like putting the radios on a future year is an idea.
- D. Eliminate a portion of the project bringing the cost under that initial \$87,500. Fund the rest of the project with city funds, or eliminate all together.

Once the City lets the State know how we wish to proceed, the State will get the SMA signed and the project rolling.

Ald. Ruetten motioned to move the entire street project i.e. parking lanes on both the north and south side of the street to the 2023 budget.

2nd Ald. Romlein

Carried by unanimous voice vote

Consensus dictated that items 7-15 be combined.

7. Review and take possible action: sidewalk concern/repair at 116 E. Main Street, 308 E. Main Street, 802 N. Church Street, 806 N. Church Street, 812 N. Church Street, 815 N. Church Street, 818 N. Church Street, 821 N. Church Street, 824 N. Church Street

Ald. Ruetten asked if these complaints were driven by residents who live at said addresses or if they were simply noticed by other residents. PWD/CE Holloway said that observations were given by citizens passing by and that the City must set a course of action once notified.

Motion to approve Ald. Romlein

2nd Ald. Ruetten

Carried by unanimous voice vote

16. Review and take possible action: consider approval of Assignment and Assumption of Substitute Development Agreement. Neither Engineering nor Streets did not bring this item to Public Works and so there was no presenter of this agenda item.

Motion to table Ald. Ruetten

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Ald. Ruetten

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wetzel

Public Works Commission Chair

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.