

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

June 7, 2023

1. Roll Call

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dana Davis• Brad Blanke• Eric Schmid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police Chief Robert Kaminski• Assistant City Engineer Andrew Beyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Lehne• Shelley Lehne• Lynly Gray

2. **Receive Comments from the Public** – No person chose to speak at this opportunity in the agenda.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the April 5, 2023 meeting have been presented to the Common Council without correction, so those minutes are simply noted at this point on this agenda.

Agenda item C, without objection, was moved up for the convenience of those attending the meeting.

4C. Review and take possible action: handicap parking space adjacent to 1502 N. Second Street.

The property owner of 1502 N. Second Street has requested that a temporary handicap parking space be designated adjacent to their property to accommodate a family member. The concerned citizen explained that their home has no driveway and their elderly mother has mobility issues. The mother needs to park on the street in front of the sidewalk leading to the front door of their home so that she can safely make her way into the home without assistance. If someone is already parking on the street in front of the sidewalk that leads to their front door, the mother has difficulty getting back to the house due to challenging hills, terrain, and distance.

The Engineering Division is recommending that the handicap parking space request be denied because sidewalk or curb ramps don't currently exist on the 1500 block of N. Second Street – a requirement of the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines.

The citizen explained that this wouldn't be an issue if they had a driveway. They have explored that option, but according to the Zoning requirements, they can't put in a driveway without also being required to put in a sidewalk – which would make the project very expensive.

Alderman Blanke asked Assistant City Engineer Beyer if this would be something the citizen could bring before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Since there is currently no sidewalk on the 1500 block on N. Second Street, perhaps the Zoning Board would allow an exception so that they could put in a driveway without also putting in a sidewalk. Beyer agreed that this would be a good next step and explained that if they proved hardship, they may be granted a waiver. Beyer offered to connect the citizen with the Zoning administrator.

ACTION: None is required other than for Mr. Beyer to provide the citizen with the Zoning Administrator contact information. The committee may revisit this in the future if the homeowner is not able to find a positive resolution after pursuing the Zoning appeal process.

4A. Public hearing for proposed structure within N. Water Street public right-of-way.

Davis opened the hearing for public comment. There were no citizens present to comment on the proposed structure. The public hearing was closed.

4B. Review and take possible action: Proposed structure within N. Water Street public right-of-way.

Engineering received a request from the property owner of 200 W. Main Street to place a seating platform over an existing open staircase that encroaches within the N. Water Street public right-of-way. The property owner explained that they want to build the platform to provide their customers with a seating area. Because the seating platform will be built over an existing encroachment (the open staircase well), a variance is requested.

Although the steps have been removed, there is still an exit door from the basement into the staircase well. Davis asked if that has been inspected and met Fire Code. The property owner said that the building was inspected before it was purchased, but to her knowledge the door has not been opened. The basement is not currently being used.

Blanke spoke enthusiastically about the creative use of space. Blanke made a motion, seconded by Schmid, to approve the project with the following stipulations:

1. The applicant work with the Engineering Division on the drafting of a revocable occupancy permit. The applicant will have the permit recorded with the Jefferson County prior to the issuance of a building permit.
2. City of Watertown to be named as additional insured on contractor's certificate of insurance.
3. The City's Historic Preservation Committee review the project and issue a certificate of appropriateness per Section 324-7A of the City's Code
4. A building permit be issued with the structure by the City's Building, Safety & Zoning Division.
5. Request that the Fire Department weigh in on fire code.
6. Optional: Consider getting guidance from the Licensing Board as to what your business is permitted to serve on the deck and what customers are permitted to drink on the deck.

Motion was passed unanimously.

ACTION: No further action is required of the Committee. The Engineering Division will meet with the property owner to complete and file the revocable occupancy permit.

There being no additional business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Alderperson Blanke, seconded by Alderperson Schmid, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted - Dana Davis, Chairperson