



Public Works Agenda Item

Meeting Date: March 12, 2024

Agenda Item: Sidewalk Update

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Brad Marquardt, bmarquardt@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-0139

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

The Public Works Committee has been reviewing Chapter 12.22 which relates to sidewalk repair and replacement. The existing Chapter indicates the Building Inspector is to be designated as the Sidewalk Administrator. Sidewalks are to be reviewed annually in one of the City's wards on a rotating basis. And according to the ordinance, the property owner is 100% responsible for the cost of repair or replacement.

A set of records from 2009 indicated the Neighborhood Service Director was the Sidewalk Administrator. These records indicated the property owners were only responsible for 25% of the repair/replacement. This adjustment may have been in response to a Special Assessment Resolution from 1996 where the Special Assessment Policy was updated. The Policy was again updated in 2015 where Council approved a Resolution where the City paid 100% for sidewalk repair/replacement, among other construction related items.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

At the October 10, 2023 Public Works Committee meeting, the Committee voted 2-1 to approve the updates to Chapter 12.22. This includes special assessing the property owners 50% of the cost of repair/replacement, unless the repair/replacement is the result of a city terrace tree. Then the City would pay 100% of the repair/replacement. The dissenting vote was not in favor of special assessing the property owners. At the December 5, 2023 Council meeting the Council approved the first reading of the new ordinance which included assessing property owners 50% of the cost, unless if damage was caused by a terrace tree. The council also asked for additional information pertaining to sidewalk cutting/grinding and the Sidewalk Utility in the City of Edgerton.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

The estimated cost to remove and replace concrete sidewalk is \$10/sq. ft. One square of sidewalk at five feet by feet would be 25 sq. ft or \$250. If the sidewalk has to be fully replaced across a 60-foot lot, the cost would be \$3,000. Under the current adopted Resolution, the property owner would pay \$0 in both examples. If the Chapter is adopted as attached, the property owner would pay \$125 or \$1,500 for the two examples provided. For sidewalk cutting it depends on the height of the displacement and if it is uniform across the sidewalk square. For estimating purposes, staff used a one-inch uniform height. The estimate for this work is \$160 for a five-foot width.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff included a map showing which streets have sidewalk on both sides, one side or none at all. According to GIS, 21.8 miles of streets have sidewalk on both sides, 14 miles with sidewalk only on one side and 20.5 miles with no sidewalk. This indicates that roughly half of the properties in the City do not have sidewalk. Yet they benefit from being able to use the sidewalk and not having to maintain it. Also included is a Sidewalk Cost Breakdown showing the difference between money spent on defective sidewalk versus curb ramps. Staff also tried to identify trip hazards and have shown a comparison cost

between replacement and sidewalk cutting. The City of Edgerton uses a Sidewalk Utility to charge all property in the City a quarterly fee that is collected and used specifically on sidewalk installation and replacement. It went into effect in 2022.

Staff's recommendation is for the committee to review the information and decide if any changes to the proposed ordinance, which includes property owners being assessed 50%, should be recommended to council.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sidewalk Map2. Sidewalk Cost Breakdown3. City of Edgerton Sidewalk Utility |
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