



Public Works Committee
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Cravath Conference Room
Municipal Building - 2nd Floor
312 W. Whitewater St
Whitewater, WI 53190

MINUTES

1. Call to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order by Stone at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Municipal Building in the Cravath Conference Room on the 2nd floor.

Present: Gerber, Allen, Stone

Others: Marquardt

2. Approval of minutes from June 13, 2023

It was moved by Allen and seconded by Gerber to approve the Public Works Committee minutes from the June 13, 2023, meeting.

AYES: All by via voice note (3). NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

3. Hearing of Citizen Comments

No hearing of citizens comments at that time.

4. New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action regarding sidewalk replacement program.

Marquardt stated the sidewalk replacement program was on his radar as well as brought up by Alderperson Gerber for further discussion. According to the Chapter, the building inspector is the designated sidewalk administrator. Sidewalks are to be reviewed annually in one of the City's wards on a rotating basis. According to the ordinance, the property owner is responsible for the cost of repair or replacement.

The last records of the sidewalk replacement program Marquardt found was from 2009, which was administered by the Neighborhood Services Director. These records indicate the property owners were only responsible for paying 25% of the sidewalk repair/replacement. This may have been in response to a Special Assessment Resolution from 1996 where the Special Assessment Policy was updated. The 1996 Special Assessment Policy was again updated in 2015 where Council approved not assessing at all for sidewalks, among other things.

Fund 280 - Street Repairs, typically has \$20,000 budgeted for annual sidewalk repair. Staff has been using this money for miscellaneous sidewalk repairs, with work typically completed by City staff.

Marquardt stated he would like to get back into a true sidewalk replacement program. The thought would be to add the work onto our biannual street construction projects. Two wards would be included, with the emphasis on the wards closest to where the street construction work is happening, if possible. Since street construction is anticipated for 2024, only one ward will be looked at for inclusion next year. Ward 4 was suggested, which is bounded by Fremont Street, Main Street, Prairie Street and the Walworth County line. Fremont Street from Starin Road to Lauderdale is a proposed street construction project.

Additionally, the ordinance should be updated to reflect past and proposed changes.

Allen asked about sidewalks that need repair but not on the list for street reconstruction. Marquardt stated the first priority would be to look where they will be doing the street reconstruction. Another ward could be added if it is close by the reconstruction area so the contractor wouldn't have to go across town. Marquardt also stated that every curb ramp encountered will have to be updated to meet new ADA guidelines.

Committee members then discussed it being changed from a resolution to a policy.

Marquardt will bring the information back to the committee members regarding the cost of replacing a sidewalk. That way there will be a better understanding of costs associated with the project. Gerber asked that this be done before the budget is due this year. Given that information, this item will need to come back to the Public Works meeting in August.

b. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the installation of a four way stop at Walworth Avenue and Prince Street.

Marquardt stated Mr. Carl Peterson reached out to him about installing a four way stop sign at the intersection of Walworth Avenue and Prince Street. He mentioned there have been a number of accidents at the intersection and indicated vehicle speed on Walworth Avenue as a contributing factor.

Records from the Police Department show 11 accidents over the past 10 years. Included was a spreadsheet showing information from the police reports. Also included is an excerpt from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices pertaining to stop sign applications.

Marquardt does not recommend the installation of a four way stop at Walworth and Prince. The installation of stop signs are not for speed control if speeding is an issue. Additionally, the criteria for multi-way stop control does not seem to be met. Since seven of the accidents involved people actually stopping, then failing to yield the right of way, staff would recommend a sign that reads "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" be added to the existing stop signs.

Allen made a motion to take no action on this item and seconded by Gerber. It was noted that the sign at this intersection already has the "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" sign on it.

AYES: Gerber, Allen, Stone. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

c. Discussion and Possible Action regarding special assessments for the Northside Water Main Extension.

Marquardt stated Johns Disposal made a request for the water main to be extended to their property. The request is based on an order from the DNR due to arsenic contamination and the need for fire protection. When a water main is extended, property owners typically pay for the extension through a special assessment. The project consists of approximately 2,050 feet of 12-inch water main. Assessments are based on an 8" main. To serve Johns Disposal, the water main needs to be installed

across WE Energies property. After discussions with City Attorney (at the time) Wally McDonell, they didn't believe it is "fair" to assess WE Energies. They paid 100% for the prior extension to their facility. Also, they didn't believe it was "fair" to assess Johns Disposal or the Wastewater Facility for the extension across WE Energies property. Therefore, the Water Utility would pay for that portion of the extension. Johns Disposal and the Wastewater Facility will each pay 50% of the remaining costs, based on an 8-inch water main; however, we are installing a 12-inch main.

The estimated breakdown is as follows:

Water Utility: responsible for the water across WE Energies. Estimated at \$170,210

Johns: responsible for 50% of the remaining extension. Estimated, using an 8" cost factor, at \$83,285

Wastewater: responsible for 50% of the remaining extension. Estimated, using an 8" cost factor, at \$83,285

Water Utility: responsible for the difference between 8" and 12". Estimated at \$23,220.

Marquardt stated he would reach out to Johns to see if they would agree to obtain waivers for the special assessment hearing. The Wastewater Utility would also have to sign the waiver for the special assessment hearing. There would be no need for a public hearing. Additionally, Marquardt is recommending that payments be allowed in equal installments over five years with no interest for Johns and the Wastewater Utility.

Allen made a motion for the approval regarding the special assessments for the Northside Water Main Extension and seconded by Gerber.

Marquardt stated the next step will be to have Johns sign the waiver and then it will come back to Council with a resolution that authorizes the City to do the special assessment and the five-year payment plan.

AYES: Allen, Stone, Gerber. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

d. Discussion and Possible Action regarding water main easement across WE Energies Property at 111 County Road U, Parcel 292-0515-3321-000.

Marquardt stated Johns Disposal has made a request for the water main to be extended to their property. In order to serve their property, the water main must be extended across WE Energies owned property lying to the west of Johns Disposal. The permanent and temporary easements were viewed for approval. WE Energies asked the permanent easement be recorded and the temporary easement, as a separate document, not be recorded.

Allen moved to approve the water main easement across WE Energies property at 111 County Road U, Parcel 292-0515-3321-000 and seconded by Stone. Stone asked if the City had to pay for this and Marquardt stated there is no cost associated with this item.

AYES: Stone, Gerber, Allen. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

e. Discussion and Possible Action regarding installing speed bumps on Ann Street.

Allen stated no action will be taken on this item.

Marquardt stated at a recent Council meeting, a resident on Ann Street complained about speeding on Ann Street and the possibility of adding speed bumps. The Police Department set up the traffic speed board for eastbound traffic from June 9 to June 21. Data was collected from a total of 1,732 vehicles. The posted speed is 25 mph. From the data, 1,303 vehicles (75%) were at or below the speed limit. The 85% Percentile, the percentile which the speed limit should be set to, was 27 mph. Of the 429 vehicles