

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING HELD AT GREENFIELD CITY HALL, COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ROOM 100, ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M.

1. Ald. Lubotsky called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Meeting called to order

Roll Call: Ald. Pam Akers Present
Ald. Bruce Bailey Present
Ald. Linda Lubotsky Present
Mr. Richard Kasza Present
Mr. Richard Mrochinski Present
Atty Roger Pyzyk Excused

Also Present: Mr. Richard Sokol, Director of Neighborhood Services
Mr. Dan Ewert, Superintendent of Public Works
Mr. Jeff Katz, City Engineer

At this time Item #8 was discussed

2. Approval of the April 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the 4/22/14 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Kasza, seconded by Ald. Bailey to approve the April 22, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously

3. Citizen Commentary

Citizen Commentary

Joel Mayrhofer of 3908 W Howard feels the raised intersection at South 38th Street and West Howard Avenue would be an effective solution. After seeing news footage of incidents that have happened in California with similar types of speed tables, it seems that someone would damage their vehicle if they would be speeding over it. If there were an issue with the residents at South 38th Street, Mr. Mayrhofer would not mind the speed table being placed at South 39th Street.

4. Director of Neighborhood Services Report

Director of Neighborhood Services Report

Mr. Sokol spoke regarding the Capital Improvement Program and stated he would be looking for feedback at the next meeting.

The City of Greenfield received a federal grant through WisDOT to design improvements to West Edgerton Avenue between South 27th Street and West Loomis Road. The design process has begun and is approximately 30% complete. The understanding the city had was that a second grant in the subsequent funding cycle for construction would be granted. The rules of the grant program changed and the city did not receive the grant for construction. There is a possibility that the money spent on design would have to be repaid if the road is not constructed within 10 years. There have been a series of discussions with all parties involved and Mr. Sokol is hopeful that the city will still get a percentage of the eligible project funded.

5. Superintendent of Public Works Report

Superintendent of Public Works Report

Mr. Ewert stated that a staff member suggested creating a YouTube video, similar to the previous videos produced, regarding sidewalks and the safety issues surrounding them in order to educate the residents about why sidewalks

are important.

Mr. Ewert noted that the Environmental Protection Agency has changed some of the pollution requirements for emission of diesel engines. The city has six trucks which are about 20 years old that will be up for replacement this year, in 2015 and in 2016. Because of these changes the cost of just the engine has gone up \$3,000. Public Works will be bringing forward to the Finance Committee and the Common Council a proposal to move up all six trucks to purchase in 2014 due to multi-truck discounts we can get for the 2013/14 versions.

Mr. Sokol added that the trucks are showing significant damage on their chassis from salt damage. The salt is very corrosive and despite our best efforts we can't keep the salt away from the chassis on these particular trucks as they were designed differently than they are today. The new regulations regarding air quality is not only going to be more expensive to buy the new trucks with different kinds of engines but it's going to be more expensive and more involved to operate the trucks because of different additives needed for these diesel trucks. The staff is trying to avoid these costs.

Mr. Ewert gave his thanks and congratulations to the staff at DPW who worked so hard to get the new additions to the Farmers Market and the setup at Konkel Park before Jansen Fest.

City Engineer Report

6. City Engineer Report

Mr. Katz mentioned that there are many projects underway, touching neighborhoods in every district. Two areas with major reconstruction are South 122nd Street and West Carpenter Avenue, and South 67th Street and West Holmes Avenue. There have been very few concerns from the residents. There are a number of projects that will be starting over the next few weeks and then when school gets out there will be some work beginning by the two high schools.

A Public Information Meeting will be held for the sidewalk construction projects. As Mr. Ewert mentioned, having a video or something to show why sidewalks are important would be beneficial because that is what people ask when they come to the PIM's. There will be one meeting for all the sidewalk neighborhoods most likely staggered throughout the evening.

One of the neighborhoods where sidewalks are being considered is South 35th Street from West Layton Avenue to West Cold Spring Road. The engineers are finding it extremely difficult to fit sidewalks on South 35th Street between West Cold Spring Road and West Allerton Avenue. This area has no curb and gutter and there are a lot of obstacles including trees and ditches.

The current phase of the Wildcat Creek project to alleviate flooding is nearing completion and should be done within a month.

The Sanitary Sewer lining project around West Morgan Avenue and South 51st Street is almost complete. Major improvements have been made to that section of sanitary sewer.

A PIM will be held toward the end of June for West Morgan Avenue. One of the hot button issues there is sidewalks. The state has informed the city that on any federally funded project, sidewalks must be included on both sides of the street. The idea is that streets are for everyone, not just cars. They are for people that walk, people that bike, disabled people, the young and old.

The project at South 45th Street and West Tesch Avenue area will have curb and gutter next week and paving the following.

At this time Item #10 was discussed

**Traffic Circle of West
Howard
NEXT AGENDA**

7. Discussion and decision regarding the traffic circle on West Howard Avenue and its effects on the homes in the area. (Lubotsky) (TSWG 5/6/14, BPW 4/22/14)

Ald. Lubotsky reminded the Board that this item was on last month's agenda. The floor was open for new dialogue to share.

Mr. Trotter of 3914 West Howard Avenue stated that the circle is not doing any good. It is not slowing any traffic and not helping any parking and is an eye sore.

Joel Mayrhofer of 3908 West Howard Avenue noticed after driving past the traffic circle on South 100th Street that the speed limit is posted more frequently and easy to read. There are only three speed limit signs on West Howard Avenue and one of them is very difficult to read even in daylight.

Mr. Sokol advised that staff has spent some time looking at the Capital Improvement Program and handed out a proposed CIP program for 2015. In 2015 the Lynndale area, near West Howard Avenue is scheduled for reconstruction. It would be the largest reconstruction project that the city will have ever done at \$3.1 million. There are other streets that have been damaged significantly by the 2013/2014 winter. One of them is West Howard Avenue between West Loomis Road and South 40th Street and another is South 43rd Street south of West Layton Avenue. All three of these projects have been included in the 2015 CIP.

The City of Milwaukee Engineer is encouraging the repair of West Howard Avenue as the City of Milwaukee might be in a position to extend the project within city limits further to the east or west.

Mr. Katz stated that in looking at what options there are to help slow traffic on West Howard Avenue and yet address the concerns of the residents, what the staff is proposing to do as part of a reconstruction of that road is to change the nature of the road so that drivers feel as though 25 mph is the speed limit that they should be driving. The driver has to feel that that is the speed that they are comfortable at.

Instead of a traffic circle, one concept would be a raised intersection at the intersection of South 38th Street and Zablocki park. A raised intersection is similar to what they call a speed table. The intersection is raised about 4" so as the traffic approaches it the car will drive up onto the raised intersection and as they leave the intersection they drive off. It is not the same as a speed bump, it is longer. A speed bump often times you can drive quickly over it and your suspension will absorb the speed bump, but you can't do that with a speed table because you spend time on the speed table. A drawing was displayed to show the concept.

Another option is a narrowing of the lane. As you approach the intersection the space with which the car has to drive is narrowed with a bump out on the corner and a median in the middle. The goal is to make a driver less comfortable going at a high rate of speed so it tends to slow the driver down.

One more variable is to add a bike lane. By adding a bike lane you have the line painting and symbols that visually make the lane seem narrower and because of the width of West Howard Avenue, there is plenty of room to have parking, a bike lane and a lane on each side. One of the concerns that people had was they didn't want to lose parking in front of their homes. In this particular drawing, no-one loses parking.

Mr. Sokol noted that this is the direction staff would like to go. The bump out idea is new to Greenfield. The bump out idea is currently being designed into the reconstruction of West Morgan Avenue between West Forest Home Avenue and South 43rd Street. The raised intersection we have not used before in Greenfield although it is being designed and included in work to be done this year at crosswalks throughout the city around our schools. There will be a raised crosswalk on South 116th Street by Whitnall School, also on West Bottsford Avenue at a sidewalk crossing near Maple Grove School. So staff tried to combine those two techniques into one to come up with a traffic calming technique that will allow us to remove the traffic circle.

Mr. Katz stated that we would only lose parking on the corners that face West Howard Avenue. Parking would be available on South 38th Street. Mr. Kurzynski of 3732 West Howard Avenue stated that during the summer Zablocki Park is heavily used and parking is used on West Howard Avenue and the side streets so there is still concern about limited parking. Mr. Ewert reiterated that with this option residents would only be losing approximately four spots on the north side of the street and four spaces on the south side in exchange for pedestrian and driver safety.

Captain Brunner of the Police Department addressed the Board and stated that traffic studies were done prior to the traffic calming that is currently in place and after and found that there was a significant reduction in speeds on West Howard Avenue after the installation. Captain Brunner understands the argument of not living in the area so not seeing it every day. The studies are proof that there was a speed reduction of 5%.

Mr. Sokol suggested that the Board focus on addressing the pavement problems in this area and tackling traffic calming as part of the 2015 road program. Design could be accomplished this fall, budgeted this fall and then constructed next year leaving the traffic circle in place until that time.

Ald. Lubotsky requested seeing data from the Police Department on the effects of the South 100th Street circle.

In July the Board will come back with some options for reconstruction and some options assuming it's not reconstructed.

NEXT AGENDA

At this time Item #15 was discussed

- 8. Discussion and decision to close the eastbound lanes of West Layton Avenue from South 60th to 62nd Streets for House of Harley-Davidson Milwaukee Rally August 25th – September 2nd, 2014. (Neighborhood Services) (TSWG 5/6/14)**

**House of Harley-
Davidson Rally
COMMON COUNCIL**

Mr. Sokol advised that the city has received a request from House of Harley to close the eastbound lanes only of West Layton Avenue between August 25th and September 2nd in support of an annual rally. This closure is different from previous closures as it is a partial closure and the Police Department and House of Harley have had extensive discussions regarding the implications of the closure and the impact to public safety. Milwaukee County Transportation, who have the ultimate authority over West Layton Avenue, are anxious to learn what the city's position is regarding the partial closure and get into details of a proposed detour plan. There is a concern that perhaps trucks and busses would have a difficult time migrating this detour route. Mr. Schaller of House of Harley is here to answer questions.

Mr. Mrochinski questioned if the tents, food, and selling of merchandise was going to continue and where will that be placed. Mr. Schaller stated it would be within the closed area and in the House of Harley parking lot. This event is smaller than a 5 year anniversary though Harley is now advertising this event globally and the unveiling of the new model will take place in Milwaukee.

Ald. Bailey asked if House of Harley will be covering the cost that the Police Department might incur. Mr. Schaller stated that in the past they have not been charged for that specifically though they make donations to the city and Fire and Police Department because of the services that they provide. House of Harley and Chief Wentlandt are trying to figure a way where there is little or no overtime in connection with this event. This will be a trial as one side of the street has never been closed before. Mr. Schaller noted that the event needs to be a win for everybody in order for it to work.

Mr. Sokol advised that Chief Wentlandt informed him that the Police Department does not provide its service for a fee and that's a tradition that they would like to maintain. If this request does go forward from this Committee, Mr. Schaller has agreed to have a town hall meeting with adjoining properties and neighbors to address issues and answer questions so everything can be worked out before it goes to the Common Council. The Common Council would allow a public comment period during the meeting to give the neighbors a chance to speak.

It was moved by Ald. Lubotsky, seconded by Mr. Kasza to move the closure of the eastbound lanes of West Layton Avenue from South 60th to 62nd Streets for House of Harley-Davidson Milwaukee Rally forward to the next Common Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously

At this time Item #7 was discussed

- 9. Discussion and decision regarding a request to construct a private fence in a Permanent Storm Sewer and Drainage Easement in rear yard of Robert & Dawn Vajgrt, 5212 South 41st Street, Tax Key # 646-0182. (Engineering)**

**Fence in Permanent
Storm Sewer Easement
At 5212 South 41st
Street
COMMON COUNCIL**

Mr. Katz noted that staff has looked at the impact of this fence and it is staff's recommendation to allow the easement. Mr. Vajgrt was in attendance to answer any questions.

It was moved by Ald. Lubotsky, seconded by Ald. Bailey to approve the said agreement with Robert & Dawn Vajgrt, 5212 South 41st Street, Tax Key #646-0182 to permit a private fence to be installed in the city's storm sewer easement subject to normal building code, permit requirements and if were needed the bottom section of fence being raised to allow for service storm water flows to pass underneath. Motion carried unanimously

At this time Item #11 was discussed

- 10. Discussion and decision regarding a request to waive the maximum driveway width requirement as part of a driveway approach permit application from Andrew & Kristin Zimmerman, 4609 W. Morgan Avenue, Tax Key No. 555-1022. (Engineering)**

**Waive Maximum
Driveway Width at 4609
West Morgan Avenue
COMMON COUNCIL**

Mr. Sokol stated that the waiver is for an alley driveway behind the property. Mr. Ewert noted that they have plenty of room to put in some parking spots off of the alley. The Zimmerman's were in attendance to answer any questions.

It was moved by Ald. Lubotsky, seconded by Mr. Kasza to approve the request and waive the maximum driveway width requirement as part of a driveway approach permit from Andrew & Kristin Zimmerman, 4609 W. Morgan Avenue, Tax Key No. 555-1022. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Item #12 was discussed

11. Discussion and decision regarding a request to maintain an existing shed, and to construct a new private fence in a Permanent Sanitary Sewer Easement in side yard of Travis T. Popp, 4208 South 84th Street, Tax Key No. 570-8983-001. (Engineering)

Place Shed and Fence
in Permanent Sanitary
Sewer Easement at
4208 South 84th Street
COMMON COUNCIL

Mr. Katz stated that staff drafted an agreement to allow the fence within the sanitary sewer easement. Staff has reviewed and recommends this request.

It was moved by Ald. Bailey, seconded by Ald. Akers to permit a private fence to be installed in and an existing detached garage to remain in city sanitary sewer easement subject to normal building inspection and permitted requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Item #2 was discussed

12. Discussion and decision regarding the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program (Engineering)

2015 Community
Development Block
Grant Program

Mr. Sokol advised that this time of year the Board of Public Works usually discusses the Community Development Block Grant Program. This year CDBG funding has been reduced substantially and after discussions with the Parks Department, the Parks Department has significant projects available to them to utilize the CDBG funding to its maximum availability. CDBG funding with all the rules that are involved and with the funding level that exists it is somewhat impractical for Public Works and the Engineering Department to use so staff is planning to defer any CDBG projects to Park and Rec this next cycle.

13. Discussion and decision to vacate the 20' wide remnant alley between South Tuckaway Drive, South 27th Street, and West Abbott Avenue as part of 'Tuckaway Manor' subdivision, Tax Key #645-0001-001, 645-0005, 645-0007, and 645-0008. (Erickson) (PC 4/8/14)

Vacate 20' Remnant
Alley in Tuckaway
Manor Subdivision
COMMON COUNCIL

Mr. Ewert noted that this is an "L" alley right-of-way that hasn't been used. The residents have been using this area for the last 40-50 years and staff believes rather than calling the city to care for the area, it should be vacated and given back to the homeowners equally.

It was moved by Ald. Lubotsky, seconded by Ald. Bailey to vacate the remnant alley between South Tuckaway Drive, South 27th Street, and West Abbott Avenue as part of 'Tuckaway Manor' subdivision, Tax Key #645-0001-001, 645-0005, 645-0007, and 645-0008. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discussion and decision to restrict parking on the curve section of frontage road at the intersection of South 50th Street, south of I-894. (Ewert)

Restrict Parking on
Curve of Frontage
Road at South 50th
Street and I-894
COMMON COUNCIL

Mr. Ewert commented that this was requested by Working Foremen and plow drivers of the area. At one time, there was No Parking on the curve of this frontage road as there is further to the east where there is a sister curve. Public Works is asking for this to be put back since during the snow events there are cars parked on both sides of the curve and the plow drivers are not able to get through and need to back up to the next street which is a hazard for them and anyone nearby. When this was originally requested, the fire department was in agreement, and now with their new fire trucks they would never make the curve with cars parked on both sides which is also a safety problem for households in that area. Staff is asking that the No Parking restrictions go back to the way they were. It is needed so the city can do its job.

It was moved by Ald. Akers, seconded by Ald. Bailey to restrict the parking on the curved section of the frontage road at the intersection of South 50th Street, south of I-894. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Item #16 was discussed

**Connecting to Water
Mains in Lieu of Wells
NEXT AGENDA**

15. Discussion and decision regarding connecting to water mains, in lieu of the use of wells, when adjacent or available to property. (Erickson)

Charles Erickson addressed the Board to present issues related to water service within the city. Throughout the city there are approximately 10,000 properties that have water service. As water main has been installed the expectation is that adjacent properties would connect to that water main. Over the past 50+ years, there are approximately 30 properties that have not connected. This issue has come about due to concerns for consistency in applying the city standards and equity on how the utility bills are done throughout the city. A print out has been provided showing the variables from no water main available to those homes that have all the necessary lateral connections but inside pipes were never converted over to the system. Along with this data are recommendations for obtaining compliance from these residents. It is suggested that at a future meeting the residents affected may be invited in order to give their feedback on why there has not been compliance.

Joyce Naumanis of 2800 West Layton Avenue advised that she has no lateral from the main to the lot. She has been in the house since 1967 and has had no problems. Ms. Naumanis has a legal permit and the water has been tested. She feels she should not be forced to drink water that she doesn't want.

Mr. Erickson added that when the city made the decision to partner with Milwaukee Water Works and water mains were being extended through the 115 miles of streets, the city must have contemplated these same issues.

Tom Pietrowski of 4801 S 94th Street mentioned that one of his neighbors is involved at South 88th Street and West Dosie Avenue who had a lateral into the basement. Mr. Pietrowski feels that the city is capitulated to these individuals, accepting their money for their permits. In Chapter 16.10 it states that it "...shall connect therewith after notice as provided herein, except as provided in 16.11". Chapter 16.11 says "A well operation permit may be renewed by submitting an application verifying that the conditions of this section are met". Both of these properties have been doing this year after year, both having water tested, both paying their permit fees. Mr. Pietrowski feels these two properties should be given special consideration for the fact that the city is as culpable as anybody by accepting their money.

Rudy Naumanis of 2800 W Layton Avenue stated the city has had over 60 years to deal with this situation and these properties have been reassessed and taxed and sold and remodeled. The city has had a lot of time to rectify this and

questions why right now it's a problem.

Some confusion still exists regarding the language in Chapters 16.10 and 16.11. Mr. Erickson stated that Chapter 16.10 trumps 16.11. Once public water becomes available, then that property connects. If that property then chooses to want to retain their well for non-potable purposes, then the operational permit is required.

Mr. Sokol suggested placing this matter on the next agenda and ask Mr. Pyzyk will review how Chapters 16.10 and 16.11 relate to one another and give a report back to the Board.

NEXT AGENDA

At this time Item #9 was discussed

**Other Topics for
Future Agendas**

16. Other topics for future agendas

Meeting Adjournment

17. Adjournment

It was moved by Ald. Akers, seconded by Ald. Bailey to adjourn the Board of Public Works meeting at 8:37 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Young
Administrative Assistant
Department of Neighborhood Services

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