



MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members: Tracey Koach, Bill LeClair, Scott Stechmesser

Staff and Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the December 7, 2023, Public Works Committee Meeting

Tracey Koach made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023, Public Works Committee Meeting, seconded by Bill LeClair. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** - None

5. **ONGOING PROJECT STATUS AND ACTION, IF NEEDED**

A. **2023 Sidewalk contract**

Invoices for the work completed in 2023 were mailed out in the later part of December 2023.

B. **Sandy Bay Highlands - Phases 3 & 4**

As you are aware Council approved the preliminary plat at the last City Council meeting in December. The consultant was also working on submitting permits to the WDNR and USACOE for managing the wetlands that are within the remaining portion of the development area. On January 2, 2024, the WDNR responded to the application stating that it was 'incomplete' because they feel there are alternatives in dealing with the wetlands within the Orchard Court roadway/right-of-way and as such will not proceed with the application/permitting process until they are satisfied.

WDNR stated that even though the development was designed and authorized to fill some of the wetlands in the past; and, since they it hadn't been filled, the WDNR believes that the wetlands can be avoided through a redesign and will not proceed with any further permit application review. The project is on hold until this matter can be resolved or an alternative is presented and accepted by the WDNR.

C. **2024 projects**

1. **Roosevelt Avenue reconstruction**

City Engineering is continuing with the applicable design and plan preparation. It is Engineering's intention to hold a public informational meeting on January 11, 2024, at 5:00 pm with a formal presentation occurring at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers.

2. Scattered laterals - informational

At the January 2, 2024, Public Utilities Committee meeting, it was proposed to pass along to City Council that the City offer a 5-year loan (payback) program to residents that are required to replace their lead water services as part of the Get the Lead Out initiative. The loan would be at an interest rate of 2% over the City's borrowing rate, must have a minimum of a \$1,000 balance for private side water service costs to be eligible, and would include no early payback penalty.

It should be noted that Councilmember Dahlke was generally in support of this motion but was not in favor of the additional 2% interest being charged on top of what the City could borrow the money for.

No further discussion followed.

3. Sidewalk replacement

Nothing new to report relative to the 2024 sidewalk replacement program except that Director Heckenlaible did have a brief conversation with DPW Superintendent Christensen about availability of his staff to potentially do the sidewalk survey due to the mild winter to date. There was no further discussion to either utilize DPW-Street section staff or not at this time.

4. 19th Street - East River Street to Jefferson Street (LRIP) – no update

5. East River Street - 19th Street to vacated 18th Street (LRIP) – no update

6. **PROPERTY OWNER REQUESTS** - none

7. **DISCUSSIONS OR ISSUES ON HOLD, PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION** - none

8. **COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, INCLUSION IN FUTURE AGENDA AND ACTION, IF NEEDED**

A. **Discussion for the allowance of decal-style private signs to be applied to the surface of public sidewalks within the public right-of-way adjacent to business properties.**

After the December 18, 2023, City Council Meeting, this topic was requested to be sent to committee for discussion. As the City Engineer, I am not in favor of having this style of signs impacting the surface of public sidewalks primarily on a public safety perspective. I did some internet research into this style of signage and have noted that I was not able to find any municipality allowing it, including Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, or Cincinnati.

As I was traveling down Washington Street after a night meeting on January 2, 2024, a white blob on the sidewalk caught my eye in the northeast corner of Washington Street and 16th Street. Thinking that it was another adhesive sticker sign, I pulled over to investigate further. That white blob was a projected image from the inside of Weichert Realtors business. While I was there, I walked across the frost covered plastic sticker signs and noted that they were much slicker than the surrounding concrete sidewalk.

At a previous meeting it was also suggested that if the sidewalk sticker would start to peel up or fade, that the property owner would have 30 days to remove or replace it upon notification. Who would be responsible for doing those inspections and notifications? If that sticker starts peeling up and it's now a trip and fall hazard and not immediately taken care of, someone could get hurt.

Bill LeClair made a motion that ordinance language modifications would not be made that would allow decal style private signs to be placed or installed on public sidewalks within the public right-of-way. The motion was seconded by Tracey Koach. Motion carried.

9. DISCUSS STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS (TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONTROL) - ACTION, ENDORSEMENT OR MODIFICATIONS, AS NEEDED

A. 23rd Street and Polk Street - uncontrolled intersection

In the middle of December 2023, we received a concern from a citizen regarding the intersection of 23rd Street and Polk Street. They are aware that there are uncontrolled intersections within the City but did not realize that this was one of them and a vehicle went through the intersection from eastbound 23rd Street proceeding up the driveway towards the water tower. This concerned resident was traveling northbound and was able to stop. The traffic on 23rd Street should yield the right-of-way to the traffic on Polk Street as they would typically need to slow to make a turn onto Polk Street. With the driveway immediately across the street, it now acts more as a four-way uncontrolled intersection. Polk Street is also a part of the transit route.

Per Two Rivers Police Department there is no crash history at this intersection, specifically over the past five (5) years.

I am not aware of any special agreement with Village Green Apartments to utilize this drive up to Picnic Hill (Lane) for parking lot access.

Director Heckenlaible stated that he could go either way on recommending a traffic control device (stop sign) for traffic on eastbound 23rd Street and coming westerly from the driveway access.

Tracey Koach made a motion to have stop signs installed for eastbound 23rd Street traffic and for westbound traffic coming from the parking lot driveway at Walsh Field at the intersection of Polk Street. Bill LeClair seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Speed limit signs on Woodland Drive between Memorial Drive and STH 310

Over Christmas I was asked by a Two Rivers officer to see if there was any chance of getting some speed limit signs installed on Woodland Drive between Memorial Drive and STH 310, noting that it encompasses multiple municipal jurisdictions (City of Two Rivers, City of Manitowoc, Town of Two Rivers, and Town of Manitowoc). My response was that I would look into it.

Upon further review, it is not signed between Memorial Drive and STH 310. As an unsigned 'rural' roadway, state statute 346.57(4) [Table] would take effect and the undocumented speed limit would then be 55 mph. If there were driveways spaced every 150 feet within a 1,000 foot distance of this roadway, the speed limit could then conceivably be lowered to 35 mph. But, in my travels down that segment of roadway, I do not recall that density of driveways especially within the Town portions of the roadways.

State Statute 349.11 (3) and (7) does allow a local government the authority to post a lower speed limit by no more than 10 mph (5 mph increments) IF a traffic speed study is conducted and the results are agreed upon by all four municipalities and the WDOT.

Moving forward, I will check with the other three (3) municipalities to see if they have completed any engineering traffic speed studies for this segment of roadway. If there has been a completed study, I will see if they are willing to share that information to see if the other municipalities would be agreeable with those results and have the roadway posted as such. If there has not been an engineering traffic speed study completed, I would see if those municipalities would agree to have the speed limit posted as 55 mph.

The Committee was agreeable to that approach.

10. OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF NEEDED

A. Winter season

Public Works personnel brined City roadways on Friday December 26, 2023, in anticipation of a ½” snow event with the forecast then escalating on Saturday to 3-inches for communities along the lakeshore due to lake effect. Happy to report, between the preventative brining, DPW crews monitoring the actual conditions and dispatching a couple of trucks immediately after the brunt of the snow, DPW was not made aware of any complaints relative to this last snow event of 2023.

Now to see if we can be as fortunate as we were in 2023. However, if this mild winter continues, we will most likely need to address a pending concern of where to store an additional 500 ton of road salt that was ordered prior to the beginning of this winter season. We have some time to address this pending concern if the need for salt does not increase between now and April 2024.

B. Parking on 17th Street by the Senior Center

Bill LeClair inquired about the parking along the south side of the Senior Center on 17th Street east of Adams Street as to why there is such a big area of ‘No Parking’. Looking at Google Maps it was not clear where this ‘No Parking’ area would be as Google was showing a parking time restriction for loading and unloading. Staff stated that they would look into this matter and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

11. SET DATE, TIME, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Suggested as Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:15 pm

12. ADJOURNMENT: 5:42 pm

Tracey Koach made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill LeClair. Motion carried.