

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

October 4, 2023

5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dana Davis, Chair• Brad Blanke - virtual• Steve Board• Eric Schmid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police Chief Robert Kaminski• Assistant Chief Benjamin Olsen• Assistant City Engineer Andrew Beyer• Stacy Winkelman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annette Bliefernicht• Roger Bliefernicht• Jessica Matz (virtual)• Doug Clemmons• Steve Simpson• Christine Wishart

2. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Bliefernicht spoke about the excessive speeding on Carriage Hill Rd. He said there is a high volume of traffic from both the park and the school at different times of day. He has several questions:

1. In the last meeting, a Traffic Study was mentioned. He wanted to know more about the process the interns use. Do they study traffic at different times of day (morning, afternoon, evening) and on different days of the week – including weekends?
2. At the last meeting, it was mentioned that if the traffic study comes back showing 85% percentage of drivers are driving above the speed limit, that the City may then have to raise the speed limit. Mr. Bliefernicht would like to know where he can find that information and if that was true in a residential and school zone.
3. At the last meeting, he said it was mentioned that speed humps are challenging for snow plows. He would like to know if we have consulted with other communities that have speed humps? He would like to know the source of this information because other communities in Wisconsin have these speed humps to slow down traffic.

He says that they are looking for a permanent fix, not a temporary fix. His study has found that speed humps are the only permanent fix that will address the speed issue.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Board made a motion to approve the meeting notes from September 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Davis and passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS

A. Review and take possible action: Remove and relocate “Children at Play” sign from Kiewert Street.

Assistant City Engineer Andrew Beyer explained that the sign is not a “Children at Play” sign. It is actually a “Playground” sign. According to Beyer, “Children at Play” signs are not MUTCD-standard and are not recommended. Studies show that these signs do not reduce the speed of traffic or make drivers more observant. The City of Watertown does not use “Children at Play” signs anywhere in the City. Mr. Simpson owns a home in the Highland Avenue alley. He says that there is an issue of cars speeding through the alley and he wanted a sign to help remind

motorists to slow down and watch for children. After some discussion, Mr. Simpson withdrew his request for the sign to be moved.

MOTION: Board made a motion to deny the request to remove and relocate the Playground sign from Kiewert St. to the alley. Motion was seconded by Blanke and passed unanimously.

B. Review and take possible action: Removing parking on a portion of the 500 block of Carl Schurz Drive.

Davis presented the concern of a resident regarding the parking of vehicles on both sides of Carl Schurz Drive. He says that it is difficult driving between vehicles that are parked on both sides of the street. The resident is suggesting a No Parking sign on the west side of Carl Schurz drive.

Blanke asked if there have been any accidents. Assistant Chief Olsen said that there has only been one accident there on Carl Schurz in the past 5 years. It was a single car property damage accident and the driver was over 65 years old.

MOTION: Blanke made a motion to deny the request to remove parking on a portion of the 500 block of Carl Schurz Drive. Board seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

C. Review and take possible action: Request for streetlight on east/west alleyway between Labaree Street and Highland Avenue.

This request came before Public Safety & Welfare in late 2021. The direction taken at that time was to add a LED light to the existing pole and to trim the branches around the tree. Mr. Simpson is a homeowner on the Highland Avenue alley. He is again requesting a streetlight to be added to the alley. The request is to add a lamp to an existing pole. He says that it is very dark and there is sometimes concern about people going through the alley at night – especially during Riverfest. The committee worked through “New Street Light Criteria” rubric. In the area of concern, the resident has not added additional lighting to their property. Assistant Chief Olsen says there have been 3 police reports in the area in the last 8 years.

MOTION: Schmid made a motion to direct the City staff to contact WE Energies to find out the cost for replacing the bulbs with LEDs and then trim the trees to better light the area. Board seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Staff should bring the results of their research regarding the cost of the bulbs back to the committee for final approval.

D. Review and take possible action: Ordinance to Amend 500-10 (D) (1) Left Turn Prohibited.

Chapter 500-10 Section D of the municipal ordinance code covers “Left Turns Prohibited”. Item (1) is for no left turn for westbound traffic on Main at S. Third Street during the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. There is an overhead pole with an electric sign stating this. The sign has not been functional for many years. The Street Division has had to remove this overhead pole to allow the Water Division to replace a hydrant at the northeast corner of this intersection. Of the 14 accidents that have occurred in this area in the last 5 years, only 5 have been between the hours of 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

MOTION: Blanke made a motion to amend Ordinance 500-10 to remove the left turn prohibition for westbound traffic on Main at S. Third during the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and on all days except Sundays and holidays. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Review and take possible action: Add No Parking to the north side of E. Spaulding Street between Valview Court and Prospect Street.

Ms. Matz explained that she is very concerned about the safety of the intersection at E. Spaulding Street. She is requesting a no parking sign between Valview Court and Prospect Street to help with visibility and safety. According to Assistant Chief Olsen, there have been no documented accidents in the area.

MOTION: Board made a motion to deny the request to add no parking to the north side of E. Spaulding Street. Motion was seconded by Davis and passed unanimously.

F. Review and take possible action: Request for streetlight on 1200 Block of Mary Street.

Mr. Clemmons is requesting that a streetlight be added to the 1200 block of Mary Street between Twelfth Street and Theresa Street because the area is very dark. There is currently a major construction project going on in the area for a large new building. That building will likely be very well lit and brighten up the area at night.

MOTION: Board made a motion to table the issue until the completion of the building. Blanke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

G. Review and Discuss Options: Pedestrian Signage on Boughton Street near Labaree Street.

This item was tabled from last month's meeting. Stacy found some solar powered blinking pedestrian signs. There is money available in the Streets Division Signs and Marketing account to purchase the signs.

MOTION: Board made a motion to approve the signs as proposed. Schmid seconded and motion passed unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT: There being no additional business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Board to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted - Dana Davis, Chairperson