



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

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

over the limit, 416 were within 10 mph of the speed limit, and 13 vehicles were clocked at more than 35 mph.

Marquardt said based on the collected data, speed does not seem to be out of line with the posted speed limit. Staff would not recommend the installation of speed bumps.

Gerber said if they are not doing the speed bumps and the sidewalks were asked to be taken out, but we have the sidewalk policy which can't be done without a variance unless you are taking it out of the policy. Therefore, we have no sidewalks and no speed bumps. Marquardt stated that is where they are at right now. He stated there are many streets in the City that have no sidewalks and no speed bumps. Gerber asked if the sidewalk could be taken out now? The policy states they have to have a variance from the Council. Marquardt stated he should take it back to Council for final approval to take the sidewalk out. Stone said he thought it had to be a certain distance and it may not apply to this. It was noted it has to be 50% of the street or the block. He doesn't think we would need a variance. Marquardt stated the sidewalk was voted to be taken out (at a prior meeting) because it was emptying into the street and sending pedestrians into no man's land. It would be better to have pedestrians cross at Tripp Street, go up to James Street, where there are sidewalks to come across. He doesn't think that having a sidewalk that empties into the street is a good idea. Based on discussion, there was no action taken on the item.

f. Discussion and Possible Action regarding forty-eight hour on-street parking limit and the motor home/trailer parking ordinances.

Marquardt stated Alderperson Allen asked for this item to be on the agenda for review. Chapter 11.16.040 – Forty-eight hour on-street parking limit states, "It is unlawful to park any vehicle for a period longer than forty-eight hours on any street, alley, or in any public parking lot not otherwise restricted as to parking time." The ordinance does not state however as to how far a vehicle must be "moved" to satisfy not being parked for longer than forty-eight hours.

Stone made a motion to change to the on-street Ordinance Chapter 11.16.040 that it is unlawful to park any vehicle for a period of longer than forty-eight hours within the same adjacent lot, any street, alley, or any public parking lot not otherwise restricted as to parking time and seconded by Allen.

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

The ordinance pertaining to motor homes, trailers, campers, etc. is 19.51.180.

Allen made a motion to remove the words "in the side" under B. and D. of Ordinance Chapter 19.51.180. In addition, add "hard surface" to the rear yard under B. and D. of Ordinance Chapter 19.51.180 and seconded by Gerber.

Example only (may not be exact wording):

B. The unenclosed parking of either one unoccupied house trailer, motor home, or one unoccupied camp trailer in the ~~side and~~ rear yard **only, on a hard surface only**, provided that the motor home, house trailer or camp trailer is parked at least five feet from the lot lines; motor homes shall also abide by all restrictions relating to motor vehicle parking;

D. Boat trailers, trailers for all terrain vehicles (ATVs) or snowmobiles, and all other private residential-type trailers shall be permitted to park in the ~~side and~~ rear yard only, on a **hard surface only**.

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

g. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Municipal Code, Chapter 14.05 – Building Maintenance and Repair Standards.

Marquardt stated Alderperson Allen asked for this item to be on the agenda for review, particularly in regards to houses being properly sided. Chapter 14.05 of the Municipal Code refers to the required building maintenance and repair standards. However, it does not specifically refer to the appearance of the outside of a house other than “Every exterior wall shall be free of deterioration, holes, breaks, loose or rotting board or timbers”.

Allen stated there is a house on Walton Dr. and E. Milwaukee St. that have been sitting for a long time with only house wrap and no siding. Allen said there needs to be something in the code that addresses this issue. Milwaukee St. is in a business district and the Walton Dr. address is in a residential district; therefore, we need an ordinance that encompasses everything. Therefore, how do you say you need to keep your place looking nice. Marquardt asked if he should work with the Neighborhood Services Director and the Building Inspector to see if he has something from another community that he uses for enforcement. Gerber would also like to know first if a permit is needed to replace siding or is one just needed for adding stone, etc. If a permit is needed, the owner should be getting fined. Marquardt will bring the requested information back to the next meeting.

h. Discussion and Possible Action regarding repaving Fremont Street from Lauderdale Drive north to the City Limits.

Marquardt stated Fremont Street from Starin Road to Lauderdale Drive is proposed to be reconstructed in 2024. Staff would like to include the remaining portion of Fremont Street from Lauderdale Drive north to Whitewater Creek. The remaining portion is in terrible shape, with the asphalt having a PASER rating of 3, with 10 being the best. It does not have curb and gutter or storm sewer. The water main and sanitary sewer and forcemain are located to the side of the street. This would be an ideal time to include the repaving of this portion of Fremont Street.

The estimated cost to repave the remaining portion of Fremont Street is \$270,000. The cost would be included in borrowing the overall cost of the Fremont reconstruction project.

The west side of Fremont Street north of Lauderdale Drive is all University land with the exception of one house. The majority of the east side is the Whitewater Creek Nature Area. While curb and gutter are suggested to be included per our Complete Street ordinance, it is not mandated. There are no issues with flooding on this stretch. Additionally, if curb and gutter was to be installed, the City would have to look at installing a post storm water management system, such as a detention basin. For these reasons, staff is recommending the remaining portion of Fremont Street be pulverized and repaved, and be included as part of the reconstruction project.

The consensus of the committee was to move forward with the paving on Fremont Street from Lauderdale Drive north of the Whitewater Creek.

i. Discussion and Possible Action approving Strand Task Order 23-08 Biosolids Study.

Marquardt stated some components at the plant were not updated, with the last upgrade, and continue to age. The anaerobic digester, at the plant, did not get upgraded. It is old and takes abuse because of the gas, which eats away at the concrete and the covers. There is also a concern about PFAS being in the biosolids that are put on farm fields. Wastewater has tested their water and there was a non-detect in the water and a non-detect in their discharge. They are waiting for results from the biosolids but are hopeful, based on the other two results, the results will be in same category. There are also uncertainties with new standards coming forth from the DNR.

Therefore, staff is asking for Strand to help develop a capital improvement plan (CIP) for the rehabilitation or replacement of the anaerobic digester components including the covers, concrete surfaces, gas piping, and thickening equipment. The following scenarios will be looked at:

1. Current land application with outside vendor.
2. Land application buying new equipment using city staff.
3. New dewatering equipment with land application with outside vendor. This will reduce the amount of material put on farm fields.
4. New drying equipment to achieve Class A biosolids with and without a regional facility. This equipment heats to a certain degree to kill all of the pathogens. This process then makes the material much less regulated, like fertilizer. People could then use it on their lawns, etc. without any regulations.
5. Hauling biosolids to a regional facility through an outside vendor.
6. Hauling biosolids to a regional facility with new equipment and City staff.

The estimated cost for this study, based on an hourly rate basis plus expenses, is not to exceed \$34,000. This planning study will help the Wastewater Utility plan for the future. Staff recommends approval to be forwarded to the full Council.

Stone made a motion to approve Strand Task Order 23-08 Biosolids Study, not exceeding \$34,000, and seconded by Allen.

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

5. Future Agenda Items

Gerber requested an update on the Vanderlip Lift Station project.

6. Adjournment

It was moved by Allen and seconded by Gerber to adjourn the Public Works Committee meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Stoll

Alison Stoll, Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works