

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS
November 20, 2019
Government Center Room 204

Members Present: Jenny Van Sickle, Esther Dalbec, Keith Kern, Brent Fennessey (alt)

Also Present: Todd Janigo, Chris Carlson, Angie Harker, Ruth Ludwig, Craig Sutherland, Nathan Johnstad, Steve Roberts, Linda Cadotte, Thor Trone, Shelley Nelson, Jon Shamla, Tim Murphy, Mayor Jim Paine, Brian Conley, Leo Watnemoe, Melanie Cockerham, Mary Fruehauf, Lynn Wisneski.

1. Approval of October 16, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION by Dalbec, seconded by Van Sickle and carried, to approve the Public Works Committee minutes of October 16, 2019.

2. Councilor Sweeney: Request from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church 2316 East 4th Street, for two disabled parking spaces (on the East 4th Street side of the church).

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Dalbec, to approve the request by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church 2316 East 4th Street, for two disabled parking spaces (on the East 4th Street side of the church).

MOTION by Dalbec, seconded by Van Sickle and carried, to suspend the rules and move items #9 and #10 up on the agenda.

9. Councilor Fennessey: Discussion regarding the pros/cons of a permanent electronic speed sign on Highway 2 near Fairlawn Mansion.

Fennessey explained that when the police department places their temporary electronic speed sign on Highway 2/East 2nd Street in the area of Fairlawn Mansion, residents there notice a distinct difference in motorists reducing their speed. Mary Fruehauf who lives near Fairlawn was present and confirmed this. She explained the problems with speeding vehicles and larger vehicle traffic shaking her house. Fennessey feels it may be a good idea for the city to consider placing a permanent electronic speed sign in this area. Concerns were raised about placing a unit at this time, as the East 2nd Street construction will begin in this area next spring. If a unit were to be placed there now, it would need to be removed when construction starts. Public Works Director Janigo reviewed an estimate received from TAPCO who priced the sign at roughly \$4,000 - \$5,000. This would not include the pole nor the concrete work that would be required for installation. Committee members noted speed issues in other areas of the city and Traffic Lieutenant Thor Trone indicated that it might be prudent to look at purchasing a number of these signs for entrances to the city. Members agreed that a more comprehensive discussion is needed and suggested a referral to the MIC (Metropolitan Interstate Council) for a more in-depth review. In the meantime, Trone indicated he would continue to rotate the temporary speed sign in problem areas.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to refer to the Metropolitan Interstate Council, for a more comprehensive discussion, the matter of a permanent electronic speed sign on Highway 2, near Fairlawn Mansion and other places in the City.

10. Public Works Department: Husky Energy is requesting to improve their existing pedestrian crossing flasher on Stinson Avenue to a TAPCO RRFB unit to increase employee safety. Janigo explained the request received from Husky Energy. Husky will purchase, install and maintain the sign. Tim Murphy from Husky was present and confirmed this.

MOTION by Dalbec, seconded by Van Sickle and carried, to approve Husky Energy's request to improve their existing pedestrian crossing flasher on Stinson Avenue to a TAPCO RRFB unit to increase employee safety.

3. Public Works Department: Request from Larry Koski, 1704 East 6th Street, for sidewalk removal.

The area of the sidewalk was reviewed on google maps. This particular sidewalk dead ends in the resident's driveway. Janigo stated the resident is willing to remove the sidewalk himself and also fill and seed the area. He would be required to obtain an excavation and right of way permit from the city to proceed with the work.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to approve the request from Larry Koski, 1704 East 6th Street, for sidewalk removal.

4. Public Works Department: ATV/UTV proposed year round route extension from new trail crossing under the Nemadji Bridge/31st Avenue East/East 5th Street. Councilor Craig Sutherland stated that he had constituents approach him about this route extension, since the new trail crossing has been completed under the Nemadji Bridge. The extension would connect from 31st Avenue East, down East 5th to 24th Avenue East/Stinson, as well as to the East End business district. Public Works did notify all residents/property owners of the proposed route extension via mailing. Three citizens were present and spoke in opposition. Councilor Jenny Van Sickle indicated she went door to door talking to her constituents. She did not find any support on 31st Avenue East. She indicated that many people had concerns and others were vehemently opposed. She stated that both long time homeowners and those having recently purchased homes are very upset. Concerns that were brought to her attention included requirements for insurance, helmets and permits along with noise and safety concerns. After speaking with the residents, she found that there are residents on both sides of the issue and a lot neutral, or neutral with concerns and she felt that their concerns should be addressed. She did state that she had spoken with residents on 39th Avenue East last winter about the route on their avenue and those residents did not see large numbers of ATV's and those they did see were largely obeying the laws. Councilor Keith Kern indicated the same has been observed with the route in his district in Billings Park. Van Sickle suggested a policy discussion regarding the items of concern prior to approving the extension, perhaps by the Public Safety Committee. She also mentioned that it would be beneficial to have data to show the success of routes in other areas of the city as her constituents requested proof of this. Committee members were in agreement with a policy discussion and Sutherland stated he would have this issue placed on the next Public Safety agenda. Van Sickle noted that no one from the area of the proposed route attended the meeting to speak in support of it.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to approve the proposed year round route extension from the new trail crossing under the Nemadji Bridge/31st Avenue East/East 5th Street. (Van Sickle voted no).

5. Held committee from the October 16 meeting: Relocation of gate at 44th Avenue East. Janigo explained that the current president of the Power Squadron emailed him and indicated that at this time, the group would prefer the gate not be relocated. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Cadotte stated that she has spoken with a representative of the Bunge Corporation (who owns the majority of the property in question), and they inquired if the city would want the property. She also recently noted the property on an AOC (Area of Concern) map as a potential contaminated site, but this is not confirmed and needs more exploration. At this time, the city will continue discussions about the property in house and with Bunge, and in the meantime will not move the gate. If illegal dumping occurs, the city will continue to take care of this, but it was suggested to track these cleanup costs. Bunge did inform Cadotte that they would give permission to relocate the gate if this were desired.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to receive and file the relocation of the gate at 44th Avenue East.

6. Held committee from the October 16 meeting: Councilors Van Sickle and Ludwig requesting discussion on the history of sidewalk snow removal by the City as well as on identifying opportunities to enhance sidewalk snow removal moving forward. The history of the city using Bombardiers to clear snow from city sidewalks in the past was briefly reviewed. Public Works Superintendent Nathan Johnstad spoke about current sidewalk removal equipment that is available and gave a detailed report on the various pieces of equipment that could be used i.e. Prinoth, Ventrac, Skidsteer, Bobcat and mini loaders. He also spoke with communities using some of this equipment and outlined the pros and cons of each. In summary, he felt the Prinoth seemed to be the best choice for the city for many reasons. The units range from \$100,000 (basic) - \$150,000 depending on models/options. Johnstad anticipated the city needing 3 - 4 units, given the miles of sidewalk. He indicated that prior to this type of work being done, the boulevard tree canopy would need to be trimmed. If the city decided to move forward with such a program, staffing levels would also need to be reviewed. In addition, there needs to be a consensus on how many/which sidewalks the city would clear with such equipment. Mayor Paine suggested that the matter be taken up at the CIP discussion meeting, the first week in December. He indicated that a discussion cannot really occur until the city determines funding. Councilor Sutherland suggested that the issue also be brought to the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities for their input.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to receive and file Councilors Van Sickle and Ludwig's request for discussion on the history of sidewalk snow removal by the City as well as on identifying opportunities to enhance sidewalk snow removal moving forward.

7. Councilor Van Sickle requests a change to eligibility requirements for the Stormwater Flood Control Program. (The proposed change would remove the owner-occupancy restriction and allow participation for any single-family home regardless of ownership).

Van Sickle gave a thorough explanation of this requested change, which was brought to her by a landlord. She indicated the change could potentially benefit 1300 homes. Participation would be limited to one residence per calendar year for owners of multiple single-family homes that have experienced basement flooding. ESD Director Steve Roberts recapped the history of the program along with the proposed changes. He indicated there would be no rate increase if the changes were approved.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Kern and carried, to approve the change to eligibility requirements for the Stormwater Flood Control Program. (The proposed change would remove the owner-occupancy restriction and allow participation for any single-family home regardless of ownership).

8. Public Works Director Janigo: Recommending the purchase of Silverado pickup trucks for the following divisions - ESD, Sign Shop, Street Department, Parks Department and Building & Grounds.

Janigo explained that the Silverado pickups would be replacing old units and would be purchased under the Wisconsin Net State Bid Contract.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Van Sickle and carried, to approve the purchase of Silverado pickup trucks for the following divisions - ESD, Sign Shop, Street Department, Parks Department and Building & Grounds.

8.1 Public Works Director Janigo: Recommending the purchase of one (1) 2021 Freightliner 114SD Lowboy Tractor for a total cost of \$126,277.00.

Janigo stated that the department has been looking for a used unit for quite some time and have been unable to find one. This replaces a 1987 unit with high mileage that the city bought used over 25 years ago.

MOTION by Kern, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to approve the purchase of one (1) 2021 Freightliner 114SD Lowboy Tractor for a total cost of \$126,277.00.

11. ESD Director's Report

Committee members received ESD Director Roberts report via email. There were no questions.

MOTION by Van Sickle, seconded by Dalbec and carried, to receive and file the ESD Director's Report.

12. Public Works Director's Report.

Janigo indicated that staff have been fine tuning the new sanders, the Moccasin Mike Culvert project has been started and the East 3rd Street Culvert Project is wrapping up.

Kern announced the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be held December 18 at 5 p.m. in Room 204 of the Government Center.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of December 3, 2019.