

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND STREET MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 13, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present: Chad Henke, Lisa Rasmussen, Gary Gisselman, Doug Diny (Lou Larson was excused)

Also Present: Eric Lindman, Allen Wesolowski, Tara Alfonso, Jill Kurtzhals, Dustin Kraege, Chad Abbiehl, Lori Wunsch

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and received by the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Noting the presence of a quorum, at approximately 5:15 p.m. Vice Chair Gisselman called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting

Diny moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Henke seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Hearing: Discussion and possible action on vacating and discontinuing right-of-way located east of 1610 Meadowview Road, 1615 Meadowview Road, and 1612 Evergreen Road, which abuts the boundary of Parcels 080-2908-074-0992 and 156001 Forest Valley Road in the Town of Wausau

No one appeared and the public hearing was closed.

Noting the petition received from the abutting property owners and no one appearing to testify against the vacation, Rasmussen moved to approve the vacation. Diny seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Hearing: Discussion and possible action on vacating and discontinuing the portion of an alley that abuts 300 West Knox Street, 1110 North 3rd Avenue, 1114 North 3rd Avenue, and 1111 North 4th Avenue

No one appeared and the public hearing was closed.

This is in Rasmussen's district. She noted that one property owner owns all of the abutting property. This alley runs behind Blue Willow Café and is not real functional.

Rasmussen moved to approve the vacation. Henke seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on parking restrictions on Sherman Street from 3rd Avenue to 17th Avenue

Gisselman noted the email from Alder Larson that was included in the packet. Wesolowski did hear from Butch Gabrielski, whose mother lives at 1417 Sherman Street, which is on the west end of Sherman Street. They want to keep the option to park on the street. They felt taking away parking would increase speeding and once in a while they utilize street parking.

Mary Hulke, 1010 Sherman Street, lives on the north side of the street between 10th and 11th Avenues. She indicated she is not in favor and would like to understand the problem this is trying to solve. She has the same concerns just noted. Her house is close to Sherman Street. Traffic is insane and no one obeys the speed limit. She is concerned for herself and friends that visit. She noted a neighbor is disabled and has to use a van with a lift. She would be concerned for her safety if parking is restricted. She is very aware of the problem further east on Sherman Street. People park nearly 24 hours a day for many days at a time, do not adhere to overnight parking regulations, and plows have to go around them. She understands restricting parking there but asked why the solution involves no parking all the way to 17th Avenue. There is no problem in her opinion and asked that parking not be restricted.

Gisselman indicated the issue is coming off of 3rd Avenue. The initial discussion was how to treat Sherman Street west of 3rd Avenue with the variety of congestion. That brought forth discussions of no parking on Sherman Street and to what extent.

Hulke understands the signs further west on the north side of Sherman Street to 8th Avenue are not in ordinance. She glanced at the meeting packet and found the suggestion of restricting parking on the north side except during the fair. She has lived in this house since 1976. Her personal experience is that parking restrictions are needed during the fair. With parking on both sides of the road there is barely enough room for anyone to drive. When she had a smaller vehicle, she could not see traffic coming in any direction.

Rasmussen indicated that most of the opposition is west of 8th Avenue. She feels it makes sense to codify the no parking that is already posted between 3rd Avenue and 8th Avenue and leave everything west of 8th Avenue alone. This did come at the request of the Alder, but there are now two homeowners who are opposed. She believes we should stick with what we already have posted and not go any further unless there is evidence to show there is more of a problem.

Gisselman asked if this would have to be brought back with it agendized differently. Alfonso feels any parking restrictions can be discussed and action can take place on any parking restrictions.

Rasmussen moved to adopt no parking on the north side of Sherman Street between 3rd Avenue and 8th Avenue. Henke seconded.

Diny asked if staff has looked at this and if there is any recommendation. He does not want to take closing of parking too lightly. He believes the trend should be to maintain as much parking as we can. Wesolowski drove the area and did not see any issues with leaving parking between 8th and 17th Avenues. It was lightly parked the times he drove the area.

Henke noted that the existing signs should be replaced. Wesolowski agreed. If approved, the signs would be replaced and would be more uniformly spaced.

There being a motion and a second, motion to adopt no parking on the north side of Sherman Street between 3rd Avenue and 8th Avenue carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on preliminary resolution for 2023 Alley Paving Projects

Wesolowski indicated a petition was received to pave an alley. Staff recommends moving forward with a public hearing. A public hearing would have to be held because special assessments would be levied against the property owners. There is money in the budget for paving one alley. This is the only alley paving request received this year.

Robert Baumann, 817 Hamilton Street, appeared. There is dead vegetation and weeds on both sides of the alley, and he asked if this would include clearing the vegetation. Wesolowski explained the alley right-of-way would be staked. If the vegetation is within the right-of-way, it would be cleared. If it is on private property, it would not be taken down.

Diny moved to approve the paving project. Seconded by Henke.

Lindman noted this is just to set the public hearing for the project, which would be scheduled in May or June.

There being a motion and a second, motion to approve carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on sale of 123 West Thomas Street

Lindman explained this item is going through the process in accordance with the ordinance for the sale of city-owned property. It went to Plan Commission, is back before CISM, and then would go to Council. The bid amount received is \$750, which was the only bid received.

Henke moved to approve. Diny seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action examining and developing possible alternatives to prohibited street parking during snow emergencies, including amendment to any necessary ordinances such as Section 10.20.040 – No parking during snow removal and/or Chapter 10.48 – Parking meters

In Lindman's staff report, he tried to provide information on what is currently available for residents. Since writing his report, he learned the city sells all day value passes. These are in groups of 15 for \$35 and do not expire. They can be used in any of the ramps after entering the code into the kiosk. It equates to \$2.40 for the day. We typically have one or two snow emergencies a year, with one to two more during a bad year. Staff talked about different options and trying to change the Wausau Municipal Code. However, staff feels there are enough things in place, and this is more of an education situation. He feels more outreach is needed.

Rasmussen agrees. Communication about options and what is available would be helpful. She also believes that to open up different regulations because a few people received a \$100 parking ticket is a bad idea. Our snow emergency penalties exist for a reason. Snow emergencies are declared just a couple times a year. In every district one can find streets where cars are parked where they shouldn't be. They either get plowed in or the street is done when vehicles are moved. She gets it that it may be difficult for people at times but if it is just a day or two a year, she does not think we should change the rules. We have to make it as easy as possible for our crews to clear the roads where there is a significant event. She feels we are good with what we have but it would be helpful if we improve our communication with what people's options are.

Henke agrees and along with education suggested working on getting snow emergencies out to the public. In the past he never knew when snow emergencies were declared. He suggested a text message that people could voluntarily sign up for, which could also be used in cases such as the recent flood warning. Lindman agrees with push notifications, but currently we do not have that ability.

Diny asked if local radio stations were used for these types of releases. Wesolowski indicated they do go out, but it is up to them to publish. Wunsch indicated notices are sent to the paper, local media outlets, First Student, the school district, city Facebooks pages and others. Rasmussen said the last emergency was on both local news stations and on their Facebook pages. She also feels a push notification would be useful. She noted Marathon County uses a system for alerts and suggested checking to see if we could partner with them a couple times a year.

No action was taken on this item.

Adjourn

Diny moved to adjourn the meeting. Henke seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.