

CITY OF STEVENS POINT

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

Monday, October 9, 2017

Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairperson Mayor Mike Wiza, Director of Public Works Scott Beduhn, Comptroller/Treasurer (C/T) Corey Ladick and Tricia Church; **Alderspersons:** Tori Jennings(1st), Heidi Oberstadt(4th), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), Mary Kneebone(7th) and Shaun Morrow(11th).

ALSO PRESENT:

DIRECTORS: Joel Lemke – Public Utilities & Transportation, Tom Schrader – Parks & Recreation and Michael Ostrowski – Inspection & Development.

OTHER CITY STAFF MEMBERS: City Attorney Andrew Beveridge, Personnel Specialist Lisa Jakusz, Asst. Fire Chief Joe Gemza, Police Chief Martin Skibba .

ALDERPERSONS: David Shorr(2nd), Cindy Nebel(3rd), Meleesa Johnson(5th), Cathy Dugan(8th), Mary McComb(9th) and Mike Phillips(10th).

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandi Makuski – Stevens Point City Times, Cassie Lennox – Portage County Gazette, Laurie Graboski and Ted Bauer – 1101 Wisconsin Street, Lindsay Worley – 1000 Division Street, Mary Ann Laszewski – 1209 Wisconsin Street, Trevor Roark – 601 Washington Avenue, Maureen Pogorzelski – 1809 Briggs Street, Armin Nebel – 1100 Phillips Street and Neil Prendergast – 1924 Plover Street.

Chairperson Mayor Wiza called the Board of Public Works meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. The meeting was held on Monday, October 9, 2017 at the Lincoln Center located at 1519 Water Street in Stevens Point.

1. Consideration and possible action to accept the Director's Report and place it on file.

Director Beduhn stated that a lot of our projects are coming to an end.

Mayor Wiza reported that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hoover Road overpass on Monday, October 16 at 5:00 p.m. He added that there will be commemorative coins given to the first 500 people or so.

Aldersperson Jennings voiced her concerns with widening Fourth Avenue. She feels that typically when you widen the pavement, it promotes faster traffic flow. Director Beduhn stated that would only be a few hundred feet in front of Pisarski Funeral Home.

Aldersperson Jennings reported to the public that there is a BPAC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 11 at 9:00 a.m. at city hall.

Mayor Wiza expanded on the subject of Fourth Avenue since it is in his neck of the woods. He stated that area gets so congested at times that two cars cannot pass. Also the funeral director is in favor of this project. He does not feel there will be speed issues due to it being a four-way stop intersection.

Aldersperson Slowinski moved approval; seconded by Aldersperson Oberstadt to approve the Director's Report and place it on file.

Cathy Dugan, District 8 Aldersperson stated that she had previously asked that there be some parking eliminated at the in front of Pisarski Funeral Home and the Co-op. She asked if Pisarski's would be giving up some of their sidewalk similar to what they have done by the Co-op; to which Director Beduhn stated that is correct.

Meleesa Johnson, District 5 Aldersperson asked what the operational meeting with AECOM and other stakeholders for the Business 51 Project is about; to which Director Beduhn explained that it is a meeting for the utilities.

Aldersperson Johnson added that she would like to see the preliminary design before the final design is final.

Director Beduhn clarified that he mistakenly entered the Business 51 and North Point Drive intersection roundabout project under the historic Business 51 Project. The operational meeting with AECOM is for the design concept for the North Point Drive and Business 51 roundabout.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue asked why BPAC was not brought into the Fourth Avenue and Second Street Intersection Project for review and asked if it was too late. He explained why he feels widening this intersection will only worsen the safety issues. He hopes that an alternative will be considered.

Mike O'Meara, 1801 Clark Street stated his concern at the Fourth Avenue and Second Street intersection is losing space for storing snow. It would be another area that snow would have to be picked in a timely manner.

Cindy Nebel, District 3 Aldersperson asked why we are not just eliminating parking spaces as Aldersperson Dugan mentioned. She feels the problem is that motorists are unable to see bicyclists and pedestrians around the cars that are parked right up to the very corner of that intersection. She does not feel that widening the intersection without eliminating some parking will help the safety issues.

Aldersperson Nebel added that she also has a few constituents asking what the plans are for placing parking kiosks in the downtown and other areas.

Cathy Dugan, District 8 Aldersperson also asked how we plan to accommodate sidewalks in her district in the areas where the swales were added because some of those areas are in the safe routes to school areas.

Martin Skibba, Police Chief pointed out that the Fourth Avenue and North Point Drive Intersection mentioned is actually a commercial intersection and not residential.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street voiced her concerns at Fourth Avenue and North Point Drive intersection with putting foot traffic closer to the street than we already have. She asked if it was ever brought forward to ask Pisarski Funeral Home to offer some parking for Co-op customers; and if they have, if signs could be put in place to encourage that.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action on prioritizing the completion of the Safe Routes to School Projects.

Aldersperson Kneebone explained that she brought this item forward to address areas in her district and to keep the discussions going. She stated that there are no sidewalks to or from Bannock School as well as other streets in her district. She would like to discuss a way to prioritize how we look at some of our projects.

Cathy Dugan, District 8 Aldersperson commended Aldersperson Kneebone for bringing this subject forward. She stated that there is a lack of sidewalks around the Washington School area in her district as well.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue referenced a few of the recommendations in the BPAC Plan.

Aldersperson Slowinski referenced the PASER rating tool that we use for keeping up with the roads.

Mayor Wiza stated that there are a lot of things we need to have done in the city but the funds and time is not there. It is up to the Council to determine where the priorities are.

Aldersperson Kneebone asked if we could have the new GIS person do an inventory of the alleys and streets and bring forward how much it would cost to get them into the system and be prioritized.

C/T Ladick explained that sidewalks are special assessed back to the property owners so it is not considered city money. It is also not considered in competition with other things in the capital budget. If there is a neighborhood with the desire for sidewalks, they can have sidewalks but they would be footing the bill. He also explained to the Council that they do not have control of operating expenses but they are not restricted when it comes to the capital expenses. However, if the Council decides they would like more money added to the capital budget, the balance would be impacted on the property tax rate. We could decide to add additional money to the capital budget to do a few other things but we need to come to terms with what that expense is.

Aldersperson asked if the safe routes to school projects are solely sidewalks; to which Aldersperson Kneebone stated that the area in her district does not have sidewalks and the road itself is so bad that it would be a major reconstruction project. Her question is how that get a balance over Prentice Street or Business 51 or any of the other major streets.

Aldersperson Jennings added that the safe route to schools involves sidewalks but also crosswalks and accessibilities to schools. When we focus on PASER ratings we lose track of the economic vitality that is created by having livable communities. She feels we are missing the point of what we are trying to do in terms of creating a vision for a great community. She added that Portage County Bicycle and Pedestrian already have a plan and unless we follow through with the plan

that is already there, we will keep having these discussions. She feels that until we nail down putting aside 1% of funding in the budget towards getting things done, we will keep having these merry-go-round discussions.

Director Lemke asked everyone to also keep in mind that they are constructing swales where there never were swales but should have been and in some cases in 60 foot right of ways. He explained that when you plat a subdivision with a 60 foot right of way, it is because you know there is not ever going to be sidewalks, curb and gutter or any other infrastructure. Also, the subdivisions where the swales are being constructed are because there is no infrastructure for storm sewer. If there were ever to be off street accommodations in these areas, it would have to be when everything is reconstructed and the road off centered and sidewalk only on one side to leave space for swales in order to keep the storm water onsite. He stated that as we look forward into these things, it is not simply about if it would be better to have an accommodation on street or off street to get from this point to that point but we have to also look at constraints with size too.

Meleesa Johnson, District 5 Alderperson pointed out that the main topic here is safe routes to schools; which is a great plan that lists priorities. She echoed Alderperson Jennings by saying we are really good at coming up with plans and then forgetting about them. She feels this is an important plan and should be evaluated seriously. She added that maybe there should be a sub-committee such as BPAC to start a pecking order for these projects.

3. Discussion regarding the formation of a Community Area Network (CAN).

Director Lemke explained that in 2009 the city put in conduit and fiber infrastructure and since then we have had the opportunity to work with several different parties and there were some mutual beneficial partnerships that went on. What is happening across the state is that the infrastructure that is put in place is being identified as a benefit to the community in a lot of different ways. What he is proposing is to form an official community area network type infrastructure and have the Utilities run it. In the next month or two there may be some amendments or new ordinances coming forward to outline the structure and identify how places can connect to our network. He further explained that this would not be to offer services; it would only be for them to get from point A to point B. The recurring cost to do this would be what it costs to be a member of that network.

Alderperson Slowinski reiterated that basically we have the infrastructure in the ground and we are going to rent it or sell portions of it to different entities.

Mayor Wiza confirmed that we would not provide any services; we would just be the backbone for those services as we are for our utilities.

Director Lemke further explained that creating the structure is not to give them the ability to get on but to also develop a mechanism for them to connect. The cost would be at their expense and it would be built to our specs because we would own it. That way everyone who puts something in benefits by it as well as well as the next person who would be that much closer. The costs would be to whoever is benefitting from it.

4. Consideration and possible action to approve the installation of a street light along Phillips Street between Main Street and College Avenue.

Cindy Nebel, District 3 Alderperson said she brought this item forward from about a year ago. She explained that the section between Main Street and College Avenue is very dark and some people have even said they do not feel comfortable going that way at night. She added that there is a pole at this location that has been looked into and would be a simple task of putting an LED light.

Alderperson Slowinski asked if the residents that would be directly affected are in favor of this; to which Alderperson Nebel said all the people she spoke to were very encouraged about it.

Alderperson Jennings moved to approve the installation of a street light on Phillips Street as discussed; seconded by Alderperson Oberstadt.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Mayor Wiza adjourned the October 9, 2017 Board of Public Works Meeting at 7:09 p.m.