

CITY OF STEVENS POINT

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING

Monday, February 12, 2018

Police Department – 933 Michigan Avenue
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), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), Mary Kneebone(7th) and Shaun Morrow(11th).

EXCUSED: Heidi Oberstadt(4th).

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, Fire Chief Bob Finn, Assistant Police Chief Mike Rottier, City Clerk John Moe, Streets Superintendent Dennis Laidlaw; Community Media Manager John Quirk.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandi Makuski – Stevens Point Metro Wire, Gene Kemmeter – Portage County Gazette, Melissa Siegler – Stevens Point Journal, Joe and Nancy Roppe – 925 Smith Street, Kenny Bielski and Erika Perkins – 2440 Stanley Street, Sheldon Schroeder – 457 Fourth Avenue.

Chairperson Mayor Wiza called the Board of Public Works meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The meeting was held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Police Department located at 933 Michigan Avenue in Stevens Point.

Roll Call: Mayor Wiza, Slowinski, Morrow, Jennings, Kneebone

Excused: Heidi Oberstadt

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

Director Beduhn had nothing to add to his report but was available to answer any questions.

Aldersperson Slowinski moved approval of the Director's Report; seconded by Aldersperson Morrow.

Aldersperson Jennings asked if we were going to do actionable items separately to which Mayor Wiza said no. He explained that there are no actionable items in the report, typically they are approved and placed on file.

Aldersperson Jennings voiced her concerns with the Isadore Street Reconstruction Project. She feels that if we are going to reconstruct that road without a 20th century configuration, it is a waste of tax payer dollars and a great opportunity missed.

Alderson Jennings wanted to motion that we delay this project to which Mayor Wiza explained that this is not the opportunity to do such motion. He further explained that this project has already been approved; however, we can discuss it further. He was curious as to why Alderson Jennings wanted to put this project on hold.

Alderson Jennings reiterated that she feels that if we redo the road without using a 20th century model it is a waste of taxpayer dollars to which Mayor Wiza stated that was only if the University was willing to give us the land; however, the University has chosen not to do that.

Alderson Jennings asked if the University determines what City Streets are to which Mayor Wiza stated that the University determines what they do with their property.

Director Beduhn explained that when he talked to the University staff, the dollar amount for them to relocate or adjust their existing utilities was not economical for them to give us the land and he understands where they are coming from due to the substantial amount of utilities they have.

Mayor Wiza apologized to Alderson Jennings for any misunderstanding. He pointed out that the idea of adding that land was discussed a while back but since they do not want to give us the land, the project moves forward as originally planned and budgeted. He also added that this was the first he had heard of further concerns from any of the alderpersons regarding this project.

Alderson Jennings stated that she assumed that staff was following through with months of discussions of redoing this street in a modern way. She added that she had been promised by Interim Director Lemke that when the City redoes roads it will be done with a complete street methodology and she feels that no methodology was applied to this street.

Mayor Wiza stated that it was not fair of Alderson Jennings to say that no methodology was used. He affirmed that we have a methodology that is used on every road in the City that gets reconstructed.

Alderson Jennings stated that Director Beduhn did not communicate with BPAC when the road designs were being proposed.

Alderson Kneebone questioned if it would be advantageous for the City to postpone this project because of the roundabout project taking place in such close proximity. She asked if it could be delayed until at least the roundabout project is done and it would give a little more time to look at alternatives.

Director Lemke took the podium to speak to his promise Alderson Jennings referred to. He stated that anytime a total reconstruct is proposed there is a lot of thought put into the complete street design perspective; however, it is not always going to play into everything that a complete street can handle and that is constructible.

Mayor Wiza asked Director Beduhn if we were to postpone this project now, if there would be enough time to get everything that needs to be done for the 2018 reconstruct season on another complete reconstruct to which Director Beduhn stated not another complete reconstruct. He added that we could look for other things such as additional seal coating or mill and overlay projects; however, he was not really sure we would have enough time on those projects.

Alderson Jennings mentioned that the conversations she had with staff had been that the project could be delayed till 2019 and C/T Ladick assured her that the money could be rolled over.

Alderson Slowinski said he does not support the request from Alderson Jennings to postpone this project when we simply do not have the amount of right-of-way needed; however, his concern is the redevelopment of the old Kmart building. He would like to make sure that the road is built so when that development takes place everything falls in line. He suggested that the Public Works Department work with the developers to see if they feel they may at some point like to extend Isadore Street to the north.

Alderson Jennings asked if Director Beduhn could elaborate on the Stanley Street Improvements. Director Beduhn stated that last week we gathered some traffic counts at the intersection of Stanley and Minnesota that we are still going through.

Alderson Johnson agrees with the idea of taking a pause on Isadore to make sure it will be aligned with the redevelopment of the old Kmart building. She feels that is going to be a big gateway and we should make sure as we look down Isadore Street that everything is as the developers are expecting. At that time the University may feel it is a major thorough fare and want to do something different. She is also questioning the notion if it would pay to put this project off for a year because of the roundabout project taking place and the rerouting of traffic that will already be taking place.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Consideration and possible action to award the 2018 Tree Contract for the Parks Department to Zblewski Brothers in the amount of \$42,400.00.

There were no questions or concerns regarding this contract.

Alderson Slowinski moved approval of the Tree Contract to Zblewski Brothers for \$42,400.00; seconded by Alderson Kneebone.

Mayor Wiza pointed out the typographical error in the last sentence with the year the services is to be conducted is by December 31, 2018; not 2017.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Consideration and possible action to purchase two Toro Mowers and a John Deere Utility Tractor for the Parks Department in the amount of \$130,527.00 net trades.

There were no questions or concerns regarding this contract.

Alderson Kneebone moved to approve the purchase of two Toro Mowers and a John Deere Utility Tractor for the Parks Department in the amount of \$130,527.00 net trades; seconded by Alderson Morrow.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

4. Consideration and possible action to purchase a 2018 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD for the Fire Department from Scaffidi Motors in the amount of \$29,617.50.

Director Beduhn corrected the request on the agenda from this being for the Police Department to the Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle to be used by the Fire Department.

Aldersperson Slowinski moved approval to purchase the vehicle as stated; seconded by Aldersperson Kneebone.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding relocating the Engineering Department to the Streets Garage.

Mayor Wiza explained that with the design of the new City Hall it gives us an opportunity to look through efficiencies. Director Beduhn is nowhere near the majority of the employees that he oversees at the Streets Department. He went on to explain that Director Beduhn thought it would be an advantage to have his office closer. Mayor Wiza said we would be looking at about 3,000 square feet for the Engineering Department.

Aldersperson Jennings stated that the justification for a new City Hall rested on space needs and a full remodel of the current City Hall would still not accommodate future space needs.

Aldersperson Jennings stressed her disappointment in discussing moving 3,000 square feet of employee space somewhere else when we already voted to build a new City Hall.

Mayor Wiza stated that Director Beduhn said it would be nice if he could be closer to the employees that he supervises.

Aldersperson Jennings reiterated that a budget was decided based on a new building and now we are looking at an extension on a different building.

Director Beduhn presented the proposal in the packet from Bray, the architects' that are working on the new City Hall. He asked that this be something that we look into at the same time for an additional \$7,500.00.

Aldersperson Jennings asked if we voted for a \$6 million dollar City Hall that is now not going to be as much space. Mayor Wiza stated that we allocated \$6 million dollars for the project but we do not know how much it will be yet because we do not have a design.

Director Beduhn stated that this proposal is to have Bray look into and determine exactly what our space needs are. He added that there may be some additional thoughts that would have to be brought back to the Board as we look into the Streets Garage. He explained that this also may not be something that would be cost effective if, in the process of adding onto that building, it is discovered that other things need to be done and that is what this proposal will determine.

Aldersperson Jennings feels that this will only be a structural change that will further the creation of silos in which different departments have more difficulty talking with each other. She stated that as an Aldersperson observing things from the outside, she can see that this happens already.

Aldersperson Slowinski echoed Aldersperson Jennings in that his only concern would be the separation of departments; however, he also feels that if this is something worth looking at, this would be the prime time to do that.

Aldersperson Kneebone agreed that it is worth looking into now before anything is set in stone. She feels we should spend a little money now to find out if it is doable. She also echoed the concern of having the Engineering Department isolated from other City Hall departments; however, if other senior staff agrees, she would not be opposed.

John Quirk, 325 Front Street stressed his disappointment regarding any talk about adding on to anything more at the City Streets Garage. He explained that his house is located directly across the street and when he purchased his house 25 years ago, the City's Park Plan called for someday hopefully getting the City Garage out of Bukolt Park. He further explained that it also called for things like the salt shed and construction tar and other contaminants away from the river. He pointed out that instead what we have done is built a second salt shed because the first one, we were told, was going to kill someone but yet we still have it, then we built the brine shed, then we added on to the back of the garage and then moved another building in that was used somewhere else. He expressed his concerns of the discussions of adding on another 3,000 square feet to a building that should not be there in the first place. He also pointed out that this is in a residential neighborhood.

Aldersperson Johnson had a couple of points beginning with John Quirk's point of moving Engineering and making another new facility that would probably need a bit more than \$5 million dollars; however, she also understands Director Beduhn in the importance of being close to the majority of his staff.

Aldersperson McComb stated that she is bothered because we already voted to purchase land to build a new City Hall because the main problem was not enough space and now we are talking about something that would reduce the amount of space needed in a City Hall after the fact. She stressed her disappointment in not being able to go back.

Aldersperson Phillips also stressed his disappointment in this coming up now. He pointed out that this was brought up by Director Lemke at the time we were looking into moving City Hall to the old Mid-State building and at that time it was dropped because it was said that Engineering needed to be closer to all the other departments. He questioned what had changed since then. He pointed out how much more room we would have had if we would have done this at that point in time. He also pointed out that if Engineering would have moved at that time, we would have had more than enough room for the Police Department and City Hall at the old Mid-State building with a lot of room to spare. He also expressed his concern over the millions of dollars we are spending because of special interests in keeping City Hall in the downtown area.

Mayor Wiza stated that if you as alderspersons do not think this is a good idea, then vote no. He stated that we would not be doing our jobs if we did not at least bring some of these things forward and for that reason feels this idea is at the least worth exploring for \$7,500.00.

Mayor Wiza stated that he agreed with John Quirk in that all the things we have at the Streets Garage should be out of the park; however, because of necessity, we have built other buildings even since he was an alderman. He explained that he does not like having the streets garage where it is but we do not have the money to build a new facility.

Mayor Wiza further explained that he is in favor of this because Director Beduhn came to him and told him that he feels he needs to be closer to the employees he supervises.

Aldersperson Slowinski echoed Aldersperson Phillips in remembering that this was brought up before and wonders why this was not part of the discussions when we were purchasing the land for City Hall to which Mayor Wiza stated that we had not talked about it in detail and part of the additional space was including the basement and he does not feel the basement is functional as office space.

Aldersperson Morrow agreed with Mayor Wiza that the basement is in poor disrepair.

Aldersperson Jennings stated that she feels a bit tricked and that a different set of decisions would have been made if this were brought up and thoroughly vetted at the time City Hall discussions.

Aldersperson Morrow moved to approve the proposal from Bray Architects for \$7,500.00; seconded by Mayor Wiza.

Aldersperson Morrow added that he feels it is at least worth looking at.

Aldersperson Slowinski wanted to go on the record to voice his disappointment of this coming back now.

Ayes majority; nays minority; motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Mayor Wiza adjourned the February 12, 2018 Board of Public Works Meeting at 6:54 p.m.