

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING
Monday, April 12, 2010
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Mayor Andrew Halverson, C/T John Schlice, Director Joel Lemke and Tricia Church; Alderpersons: Tom Mallison(1st), Hans Walther(2nd), Michael O'Meara(3rd), Roger Trzebiatowski(7th), and Brian Brooks(10th).

ALSO

PRESENT: DIRECTORS: Tom Schrader, Kim Halverson, Michael Morrissey and Jeff Morris.
CITY STAFF MEMBERS: Attorney Louis Molepske, Clerk John Moe, Assessor Jim Siebers, Airport Manager Joe Wheeler, Mayoral Assistant Kelly Pazdernik, City Engineer Alex Saunders, Police Chief Kevin Ruder.
ALDERPERSONS: Mike Wiza(4th), Mary Stroik(5th), Jeremy Slowinski(6th), Randy Stroik(9th), Jerry Moore(11th).
OTHERS PRESENT: Gene Kemmeter – PC Gazette, Sara Robinson – Main Street Manager, Barb Jacob – 1616 Depot Street, Mary McComb – 2100 Elk Street, Cathy Dugan – 615 Sommers Street, Joanne Suomi – 2300 Fourth Avenue, Reid Rocheleau – 408 Cedar Street (Whiting), Bob Woehr – 727 Second Street, Carol Molepske – 2125 Clark Street

Mayor Halverson called the meeting of the Board of Public Works to order on April 12, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at The Lincoln Center Conference Room, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

1. Consideration and possible action to accept the Parking Meter Report for March, 2010 and place it on file (attachment)

There was no discussion regarding the March, 2010 Parking Meter Report.

C/T Schlice moved; seconded by Alderperson Mallison to accept the March, 2010 Parking Meter Report and place it on file.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

2. Consideration and possible action to award the 2010 Bituminous Patching Project #05-10 to American Asphalt of Mosinee, WI in the amount of \$85,210.00 (attachment)

There was no discussion regarding 2010 Bituminous Patching Project.

Alderperson O'Meara moved; seconded by Alderperson Trzebiatowski to award the 2010 Bituminous Patching Project #05-10 to American Asphalt in the amount of \$85,210.00.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

3. Consideration and possible action to award the 2010 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project #11-10 to Terra Engineering and Construction out of Madison, WI including the alternate bid items in the amount of \$301,353.80 (attachment)

There was no discussion regarding awarding the 2010 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project #11-10 to Terra Engineering and Construction in the amount of \$301,353.80.

Alderson Brooks moved approval to award the 2010 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project #11-10 to Terra Engineer in the amount of \$302,353.80; seconded by Alderson Walther.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

4. Consideration and possible action to approve Traffic Study #TS-02-10 to adjust parking on Cleveland Avenue by McKinley School (attachment)

Director Lemke explained that this traffic study is to change the no parking by about 45 feet to provide better access to a driveway.

Alderson Brooks moved approval of the Traffic Study #TS-02-10; seconded by Alderson Trzebiatowski.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

5. Consideration and possible action on the Franklin Street TIA/Franklin Street One-Way (attachment)

Mayor Halverson explained that we are strongly recommending the denial of the proposed Traffic Impact Analysis we received from Gremmer & Associates totaling \$43,614.00. It exceeds the amount of money that most of us are willing to accept for a traffic study that we thought should cost somewhere between \$10,000.00 and \$15,000.00. What is placed before you is a more practicable approach to allow one-way to the west only on Franklin Street from Division Street to Prentice Street.

Alderson O'Meara mentioned that he has had the experience with engineering consultants submitting high quotes and feels we should look at our selection process to negotiate more with companies by eliminations.

Alderson Trzebiatowski mentioned that he is glad we are only looking at taking traffic one-way to the west only.

Alderson Trzebiatowski made a motion that we go ahead to make Franklin Street one-way to the west of Division Street to Prentice Street while maintaining the section east as two-way; seconded by C/T Schlice.

Alderson Brooks questioned as originally discussed, are we still planning on working with the YMCA on installing a driveway for exiting to the south only? Mayor Halverson explained that we would still like to work with the YMCA to have the flexibility to help them with that.

Alderson Trzebiatowski asked if we could make that part of the motion.

Alderson O'Meara mentioned that he would like to make an amendment to the motion to also look at the following items in this area:

- Pavement markings – look at using a higher quality of pavement marking so it doesn't wear off so easily.
- Sight obstructions – have the Engineering Dept. look at any sight obstructions that may be taken care of.
- Street lighting – look at the dark spots and install more lighting.

Alderson Trzebiatowski agreed to add to the motion made and C/T Schlice agreed to second.

Added to the previous motion is the following:

- Pavement markings – look at using a higher quality of pavement marking so it doesn't wear off so easily.
- Sight obstructions – have the Engineering Dept. look at any sight obstructions that may be taken care of.
- Street lighting – look at the dark spots and install more lighting.
- Second driveway out of the YMCA – a second driveway for exit only onto Division Street from the YMCA.
- 6 month review – Bring this item back in September before the board for a review.

Alderson Walther asked permission to abstain from this agenda item because of a conflict of interest.

Ayes majority; nays minority; motion carried. Alderperson Walther abstained.

Alderperson Mallison asked if we could also add to motion to bring this back before the board in 6 months to be able to review it. Added this item to the previous motion.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) expressed his disappointment in the decision to not go through with the traffic impact analysis study. He is also disappointed because by changing this, the only way to get into the YMCA Parking lot would be from Division Street and thinks this is only going to make more traffic where we are trying to get traffic off.

Barb Jacob, 1616 Depot Street agreed with Reid in that we should not be putting more traffic on Division Street to turn onto Franklin Street across the intersection where the college kids are complaining that there is so much traffic. She feels we should do more studying before we make this a one-way street.

Alderperson Slowinski also agreed with Reid and Barb in that we are taking a dangerous intersection and making it worse.

Mayor Halverson clarified that the amount of traffic that is on Division Street is not going to be influenced up or down because of this. The specific problem traffic that exists is the traffic flow coming off Franklin Street and turning onto Division Street either north or south. It was never a problem getting to the YMCA from Division Street.

6. Consideration and possible action to award the “Point Dog Park Fencing Project” to Security Fence in the amount of \$24,982.00 (attachment was handed out at meeting)

Alderperson Walther moved approval of quote to Security Fence in the amount of \$24,982.00; seconded by Alderperson Mallison.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) expressed his disappointment regarding how the bids were done and how the handout was not handed out till the meeting. He also feels this should be going through Finance Committee also.

Mayor Halverson read aloud the letter that Alderperson Wiza sent to get the quotes.

Alderperson O’Meara questioned Alderperson Wiza if he had opened any of the quotes prior to 5:00 p.m. on April 6th, 2010. Alderperson Wiza explained that there were no sealed bids; this was not a bidding process. He said there were five that were sent out and some went out via e-mail. There were two companies that did not reply. Two were returned via e-mail so yes they were opened prior to the deadline. Alderperson O’Meara then asked Alderperson Wiza had talked to any of the vendors to reveal what someone else had given as a quote during the process. Alderperson Wiza replied, absolutely not.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

7. Consideration and possible action to award the “Point Dog Park” general site plan (attachment was handed out at meeting)

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) expressed his disappointment in the design. He feels the DNR would not approve the design because of where things are in the diagram and having to prevent erosion.

Alderperson Wiza explained that everything here is going to be subject to DNR approval. They have talked to the DNR and people at other dog parks. The reason for the wavy outside fence line on the site plan description is to prevent erosion. The mowing paths are approximate and will be changed annually to avoid the paths getting worn down and the vegetation dying. The design that was handed out is an approximate site plan.

Aldersperson Wiza is asking the committee's approval of the site plan concept with details being subject to the approval of the Public Works Director at his discretion or to committee. If the Director is not sure of something it can be brought back to committee but in general this is the concept plan.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski questioned if the dog park committee has given any thought to mulching paths rather than mowing paths. Aldersperson Wiza replied, no due to having to change the paths annually to comply with the DNR to prevent erosion.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second Street mentioned again that we have a sign ordinance and to read that before hanging signs.

C/T Schlice moved approval of the general site plan and to allow mild modifications within reason to be able to be made by the Director of Public Works; seconded by Aldersperson Brooks.

Ayes majority; nays minority; motion carried.

8. Consideration and possible action to award the "replacement of glass and supports" surrounding the ice surface at Willett Arena to Sport Systems Unlimited in the amount of \$24,894.00 (attachment)

Aldersperson Brooks asked if the city is providing the list of items that are not included in the base bid. Mayor Halverson assured that the city will be providing those items.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski questioned what we have there currently and why it needs to be replaced. Director Schrader said we currently have four foot high Plexiglas around most of the rink which is too low if you have been on the south spectator side where pucks can come over. The new glass we are looking at is six feet high. Also, the Plexiglas is approximately fifteen years old; it is scarred up and hard to see through without deflections. The new glass is tempered with no reflections.

Aldersperson Brooks moved approval; seconded by Aldersperson Mallison to award the replacement of glass and supports surrounding the ice surface at Willett Arena to Sport Systems Unlimited in the amount of \$24,894.00.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

9. Consideration and possible action on the closing of Depot Street (attachment)

Director Lemke explained the letter in the packet that was sent out to area residents and business owners.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski questioned how many recorded accidents have happened at the intersection of Water and Depot Streets. Mayor Halverson explained that the closing of this street has nothing to do with how many accidents have happened but from an engineering and internal review, Depot Street is almost 90% a modified parking lot as opposed to an actual street with minimal traffic flow. Also, the entering and exiting onto that road is so close the railroad crossing.

Aldersperson O'Meara mentioned that there were a couple options given, one being the creation of a barrier island and the other being the closure of Depot Street. He feels that closing Depot Street would do some things to clear up some of the circulation possibilities people have and feels we should barricade Depot Street, not abandon it, and at such time we do a construction project on Water Street put that barrier in and re-open the street at that time. He is not thrilled with the idea of closing Depot Street completely due to then only having one direction for emergency vehicles to get in to Depot Street or the railroad yard. He feels there is a real advantage to having Depot Street accessible.

Director Lemke explained that there are a few things to consider if we are not going to go through with the closure, one being the design. There is a grade difference between the new Water Street and Depot Street so, if we barricade it only to reinstate the intersection later, it is going to take construction and would need permission at that time to change order the project. The other thing being, those lots are one property deep so you have access from both sides of the block to the single property.

Aldersperson O'Meara explained his fear is that we would have something go wrong on the rail property and a railroad yard is a place where stuff could happen.

Barb Jacob, 1616 Depot Street handed out a petition with 293 signatures from people within the facility the Depot Street intersection within the last five days that do not want this street closed. She explained to people that it is a safety issue and because Water Street is being reconstructed this year the city feels this is the time to close it. She feels by closing Depot Street we would be closing the main access to her business. She feels she lost the main access to her business already when the city redid Division Street and now we want to close the only direct access from a secondary road to her business by closing Depot Street.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) expressed his disappointment in this closure. He feels the city should kick in some money when Water Street is redone to keep it open.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski questioned how much of a grade elevation difference is there between Water Street and Depot Street. Director Lemke explained the vertical break is not huge but enough that we would end up coming back onto Depot Street outside of what we currently expected with the construction project.

Aldersperson O'Meara made a motion to authorize the city to temporarily close Depot Street until such time that during the construction of Water Street they can install a barrier island in travel lanes on Water Street; seconded by Aldersperson Trzebiatowski.

Mayor Halverson commented that he is in opposition of the motion because he feels it will not accomplish anything. Aldersperson O'Meara explained that the barriers will be set in to make the gate work and the gate can get 90% federal funding then city pays 5% and the railroad pays 5%. This is certainly an eligible cost for the city because we are not deciding to do this to make the traffic flow better, we are doing it because the Federal Railroad Administration and WisDOT feel the crossing won't work unless the barriers are in and should be part of the crossing project so we should be amending the crossing agreement to have it part of the gate deal.

Aldersperson Brooks questioned if we really have to do anything as a third option if there is no requirements for us to maintain the quiet zone. Mayor Halverson explained that the quiet zone is already authorized and in place without any changes to that intersection. What we are looking at closing Depot Street as part of a larger construction project in making that area cleaner in terms of vehicular interaction being so close to the railroad crossing.

C/T Schlice questioned how far towards Depot Street would the barriers have to go from the intersection of Park and Water Street, would they cross over Depot Street or stop short? Alex Saunders, City Engineer explained this was looked at as part of the quiet zone study back when Joe Euclide was Director and the recommendation at that time was for the barrier to go 100 feet beyond the crossing which would preclude the one turn movement going onto Depot Street. There was also the option of tubular markers being installed but there was an issue when it would come to maintenance and plowing.

C/T Schlice feels that because of the lack of traffic on Depot Street it is not worth closing it at all.

Mayor Halverson feels it should be closed due to it being a practical approach of the Department of Public Works saying that it should be closed because it can be done as a larger construction project and due to the point that there is a lack of traffic there is the reason it should be closed.

Aldersperson O'Meara feels that if we close the road temporarily and at the end of so many months the residents feel it was not so bad after all having it closed and at that point we can close it in the project but by going in and taking it out we won't be able to go back on it.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski feels it should be kept open if possible.

Ayes 4; nays 3; motion carried.

10. Consideration and possible action to change Main Street to angle parking with one lane of traffic and 10 mph speed limit between Strongs Avenue and the square (attachment)

Alderson Mallison requested an explanation as to why the directional parking is on one side and parallel parking is on the other and not vice versa. Director Lemke explained that there are a few reasons, one is the continuation of the westbound traffic coming from the east between Church Street and Strongs Avenue and to the east in front of the Post Office is in the north lane and keeping that traffic in the north lane will keep from any merging back and forth to continue on. Another reason is that people are more accustomed to parallel parking on the right side of the street as it is on every two way street. Another reason is the sidewalk on the south side is about 3 to 4 feet wider than it is on the north which would be better for pedestrians walking and having cars almost onto the sidewalk.

Mayor Halverson mentioned that we are going to be expanding our conversation about the way we might allow for angle parking with safety and visibility an item. We may look at reversing the angular parking and backing in to the angle parking as opposed to driving in directly. Mayor Halverson explained the reverse angular parking and feels it makes sense but would take a lot of getting used to. Alderson Trzebiatowski commented that he feels it would be a good idea. Alderson O'Meara commented that he has looked into this and feels it would be a good idea also but we may have to look at which side of the street we would do it on.

C/T Schlice questioned if we have looked at widening the street and getting rid of the curb bump outs. Director Lemke said if we are going go with this type of theme we would be adding to the bump outs to shield the parked cars from oncoming traffic and making them wider and more aggressive.

Alderson Brooks questioned how wide the one lane would be. Director Lemke said 14 feet wide.

Alderson Slowinski question if we have considered the delivery trucks stopping. Mayor Halverson said it has been considered in that there is Third Street either north or south or areas east and west of the Main Street corridor. There will be instances where there will have to be more dolling is going to have to happen by the delivery people and possible establishment of permanent loading zones have been considered as well.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) expressed his disappointment with everything about this agenda item.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second Street feels parallel parking would be better if it were on the left side of the street so the driver getting in and out of the vehicle is not out in the traffic lane.

Sara Robinson, Main Street Manager mentioned parking and loading zones came up before and specifically for the loading zones the businesses would like to make sure there is something there permanently. This item has been fairly well received by businesses downtown mostly because it is just paint and it can be repainted if it does not work.

Alderson Trzebiatowski made a motion to with the plan as proposed for the right side parallel parking with the left side back-in angle parking from Strongs Avenue to the square; seconded by C/T Schlice.

Alderson Mallison questioned that if this passes tonight, when would we be looking to start this project? Mayor Halverson said after chip sealing and sweeping are done to remove the loose aggregate and then paint the lines, which will be sometime around June.

Alderson Mallison also questioned if going forward with this, after the lines are painted, when would we be able to come back to see how it is working? Mayor Halverson said we could bring it back to the Board of Public Works meeting in October to review reactions and anything else.

Alderson O'Meara commented that he is all for back-in angle parking, but before we go ahead and put it on the left hand side, he would like an engineering design brought back before the Board of Public Works. He also mentioned that back-in angle parking is actually simplified parallel parking.

Alderson Brooks agreed and feels we should not jump in to back-in angle parking at this point because it is new to this area. Mayor Halverson mentioned that back-in angle parking is done almost nowhere in the state of Wisconsin. Very few cities have implemented it in the north.

Alderson Walther is in favor of the angle parking but has concerns about back-in angle parking. He feels it would be difficult for a lot of people. He feels people may feel uncomfortable going downtown because of having to back in to park.

Alderson Trzebiatowski amended his motion to approve the angle parking on the left side tentatively with the reduced speed to 10 mph between Strongs Avenue and the square with the reverse parking being outlined by the June Board of Public Works meeting and prior to snow fall or October meeting we have a review on the status of the parking; C/T Schlice seconded that.

Ayes majority; nays minority; motion carried.

11. Consideration and possible action to approve the historic style lighting re-lamping project on Main Street (attachment)

Mayor Halverson explained that this would be re-lamping 30 lights to the historic street lighting we already have in the downtown area would utilize LED fixture application for the particular lights. Also, we were awarded \$159,000.00 through the Office of Energy Independence for our LED street light conversion process.

Alderson Trzebiatowski questioned the specifics on what type of lumens these have because usually with LED lighting they appear brighter. Director Lemke said there is a lot of horizontal light with these versus a box where it casts the light down and it is definitely a whiter light.

C/T Schlice questioned as part of this project, are we also going to be upgrading or replacing the outlet boxes on the light poles. Director Lemke said these are LED which will use less power but it can be looked at.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second Street questioned the history of these lights and asked if we have tried them out in the city. Mayor Halverson said we have some up right now on the bridge, in front of the bank and in the transit hub. He also feels that with the economy at this point in time we should not be spending this kind of money on cosmetic fix-ups of Main Street.

Sara Robinson, Main Street Manager questioned when the last time was that any cosmetic improvements were invested in downtown. Mayor Halverson said last material improvement was the late 70's or early 80's. The last project generally downtown was the transit hub and that is when these particular lights were installed there. He also mentioned that this would drastically reduce our electric usage and increasing the historic nature of our Central Business District as well.

Alderson O'Meara mentioned one of the problem with these lights is that they are not manufactured for very long which makes it hard to get replacement parts for them. He feels we should look into having several different kinds of lights so it doesn't look so bad when you have to start replacing individual ones that may get hit. That way you are not forced into going to one vendor for a replacement light. He also feels the communities that currently do this cosmetically look neat.

Alderson Mallison moved approval of the Main Street historical light re-lamping project; seconded by Alderson Trzebiatowski.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

12. Consideration and possible action on the Relocation Order at Koerten Gallery (attachment)

Mayor Halverson explained that this is to take some of the right-of-way and be able to square up that intersection 90° to Division Street and allow for a larger turning radius.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski mentioned that he has talked to Koerten Gallery and they are in favor of this project.

Aldersperson Trzebiatowski moved to approve the Relocation Order at Koerten Gallery; seconded by Aldersperson Walther.

Aldersperson O’Meara expressed his concerns on how the sidewalk is going to be. He feels when we design it, it will require a pedestrian island. Mayor Halverson said it is already being reviewed.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

13. Consideration and possible action on the Ordinance for outdoor dining and right-of-way occupation within the central business district (attachment was mail out separately)

Mayor Halverson explained that a lot of other communities already do this and questions have come up as to why we do not do this.

Aldersperson O’Meara brought up that this is a really high issue with American Disabilities Act right now and feels there should be something put in the Ordinance that the design will comply with ADA Requirements. That would keep someone from making a good investment and it is not looked at.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street (Whiting) expressed his disappointment in this and feels it will be a disaster in the long run. He also complained about the way the Ordinance was written and feels it should be more specific.

Aldersperson Mallison moved approval; seconded by Aldersperson Brooks to accept the Ordinance for outdoor dining and right-of-way occupation within the central business district.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

14. Airport Manager’s Report (attachment)

There was no discussion regarding the Airport Manager’s Report.

C/T Schlice moved to accept the Airport Manager’s Report and place it on file; seconded by Aldersperson Brooks.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

15. Director’s Report (attachment)

Director Lemke mentioned that the stretch of Michigan Avenue in the Sims Avenue area is going to be addressed first thing this year. There will be a 1-1/2” overlay with a total reconstruct to follow shortly.

Aldersperson O’Meara moved to accept the Director’s Report and place it on file; Seconded by Aldersperson Brooks.

Ayes all; nays none; motion carried.

16. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Halverson adjourned the April 12, 2010 Board of Public Works meeting at 9:24 P.M.