

Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Monday, July 14, 2003 - 6:58 P.M.

City Water Department - 300 Bliss Avenue PRESENT: Mayor Wescott, C/T Schlice, Alderperson, Sevenich, Walther, Sowieja, Barr and Moore  
ALSO PRESENT: Surveyor Hild, Superintendent Krieski, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Laidlaw, Clerk Zdroik, Administrative Asst. Gebert, Director Gardner, Director Schrader, Administrator Dishar, Captain Dowling, Attorney Molepske, Fire Chief Barns, Terry Lee, Jim Cooper, Steve Plaski, Donna Suchon, Dave Suchon, Diane Mathers, Betty Kropidowski, Catherine Kehl, Alderpersons Seiser, Rackow, Molski, Stroik and Phillips

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1. Parking Meter Report.
  2. Airport Activity Report - May and June 2003.
  3. Traffic Study #TS-03-04: Remove Restricted Parking on Dixon Street between Minnesota Avenue and Indiana Avenue.
  4. Request for second driveway (horseshoe driveway) - 816 West Clark Street.
  5. Discussion on closure of railroad crossings at Tamarac Street and Prairie Street.
  6. Superintendent of Services' Report.
1. PARKING METER REPORT (ATTACHMENT - AGENDA PACKET)

Mayor Wescott presented the June 2003 Parking Meter Report.

Alderperson Barr moved, seconded by C/T Schlice to accept the June 2003 Parking Meter Report and place it on file.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

2. AIRPORT ACTIVITY REPORT - MAY AND JUNE 2003 (ATTACHMENT - AGENDA PACKET)

Mayor Wescott presented the May and June 2003 airport activity report.

Alderperson Sowieja moved, seconded by Alderperson Sevenich to accept the May and June airport activity report and place it on file.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

3. TRAFFIC STUDY #TS-03-04: (ATTACHMENT - AGENDA PACKET)

A. Remove Restricted Parking on Dixon Street between Minnesota Avenue and Indiana Avenue

Mayor Wescott said the Police management team and Engineering department have reviewed this and are in agreement that the request should be honored to remove the parking on Dixon Street between Minnesota and Indiana Avenue, currently the area is posted no parking 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

Surveyor Hild recommended approval.

Alderperson Rackow said that one of his constituents brought this item to his attention and since there are not very many people working in the Sentry building at this time, we could use the removal of this restriction to loosen up the cities parking problem a bit.

C/T Schlice moved, seconded by Alderperson Walther to approve Traffic Study #TS-03-04: Remove restricted parking on Dixon Street between Minnesota Avenue and Indiana Avenue.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

4. REQUEST FOR SECOND DRIVEWAY (HORSESHOE DRIVEWAY) 816 WEST CLARK STREET (ATTACHMENT - AGENDA PACKET)

Surveyor Hild recommended approval.

Alderperson Sevenich moved, seconded by Alderperson Sowieja to approve the request for the second driveway at 816 West Clark Street.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried

5. DISCUSSION ON CLOSURE OF RAILROAD CROSSING AT TAMARAC STREET AND PRAIRIE STREET

Mayor Wescott introduced Terry Lee - Manager of engineering Services at CN (Canadian National Railway Company)

Terry said because of volumes of traffic and various things we have been looking at a project for moving trains through the City of Stevens Point, so we do not need to stop here and switch. We would also be moving them at little higher speeds. We are looking at redesigning some of the track and giving ourselves a bypass main line. This main line will start in the vicinity of Tamarac Street and run through Water Street past the depot and then will go along Patch Street and out to the end of our yard. It means we are going to put in a new switch to divert these trains on to this new main line. We were going to put this line just west of Tamarac Street, but because the decision time to close the street might be a little lengthy, we revised our plans to put the line east of Tamarac Street. We are still looking to pursue a closure of that crossing for various reasons, one being it has poor approaches and that is neither the cities fault or the railroads fault. But it is a low volume street with very steep approaches on each side and one that we would normally look at as a possible closure candidate. Coming on to the east, Prairie and Park is kind of an intersection right at the track so we are proposing to decrease that crossing. The crossing of choice for closure would be Prairie with Park staying open. There also is a trail on Tamarac Street; we propose that trail would be rerouted to Wood Street. Those are the changes we are here to discuss today. We have had a couple of informational meetings with the City to talk about these things. Just so everybody knows, in the state of Wisconsin the jurisdiction for establishing and closing grade crossings is with the commissioner of railroads out of Madison. We don't have the authority to do it but we do have the ability to petition them. So, what we will be doing is petitioning for closure of those two crossings and we will also be asking them to review the warning devices in that area. If they don't close Tamarac, we would ask them to review the warning devices there, at Wood Street and then the intersection of Park/Prairie also.

Mayor Wescott asked if the railroad had filed their petition with the commissioner?

Terry said they have not filed it yet. I wanted to have this meeting tonight before we actually physically file it. We probably will file it this week and a

copy will then be forwarded to the city.

Mayor Wescott stated that he had talked with the railroad commissioner and had asked about the process, what occurs since the jurisdiction for the closure would rest with the office of the commissioner of the railroad. He has informed me that once he has received a petition, that public hearings for all affected, would be scheduled for the community. One of the reasons I wanted the railroad here tonight to share with you at this earliest date possible what was going on. Now I think many of you have been in office long enough to remember the discussions on the quiet zones or whistle free zones throughout the entire community. A train would enter the community east or west and the community would be so structured for safety, that whistles would not be required. The federal railroad administration is in the final stage of promulgating rules. That once those rules have finally been adopted and once proper safety, safety equipment warning and appropriate signalization is available to the public to ensure complete safety the city would have the opportunity to submit under the state office of railroad commissioner through the federal government formal application for the establishment of a quiet zone, which would benefit many constituents. The key here is a safe corridor is established. That would allow a quiet operation or a whistle free operation of the trains in the community. Now I am not asking you to take a position pro or con at this time. Once the railroad forwards to me its application that it has submitted to the railroad commissioner, I will then distribute copies. There is a public hearing process and all affected property owners can be heard. You have a corridor with individuals who have every legal right to comment on the pros and cons of this before the railroad commissioner.

Mayor Wescott asked Terry Lee what the time line was once the petition has been submitted?

Terry Lee said he would ask the commissioner how soon he thought we might be able to get a day. I would say it is going to be 30 to 45 days out for a scheduled hearing. Hopefully it will be 30 days, and then if it is a contested hearing, which means somebody disapproves or objects. Then there is a closed discussion that comes out, about a 20 day comment period and then the final decision and there is even a comment period after that.

Aldersperson Moore asked what the increased speeds of the new line would be.

Terry Lee said that they were proposing 40 MPH. Right now we go 40 and 50 in some smaller towns and as much as 60 MPH through communities. It moves the trains through faster with less delay at crossings and in this case, what we are proposing to do is not have as many of the trains stop in here. They will be able to by pass the yard and the yard operations and just move right on through.

Mayor Wescott opened the discussion up to the public.

Cathryn Kell asked if the crossings were going to be completely closed down or if they were going to gate them like on Water Street?

Terry Lee said they would be closed.

Cathryn Kell asked if he had talked to any of the local businesses to see how that would affect them?

Terry Lee said no they haven't and that is why there is a public hearing process. We are working with the City Engineering department to look at any closures and what would be done to either allow traffic to turn around or channel onto another street. There are certain things that have to be done, we just can't block a street off and take the crossing out. There will be turn a round of some sort or interconnections of some sort depending on what the city desires. The commissioner will ask the city what kind of interconnection it would want, if in fact he does close a crossing.

Jim Cooper asked what would happen to Wood Street.

Terry Lee said that nothing would happen to Wood Street, other then to add the trail to it.

Dave Suchon asked if Park Street was going to remain open and if Prairie Street was going to be closed?

Terry Lee said that was correct.

Dave Suchon requested to be notified when the city would be holding any other meetings regarding this closing.  
Mayor Wescott thanked Terry Lee for his time and requested to move on to the next agenda item.

## 6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SERVICES REPORT (ATTACHMENT - AGENDA PACKET)

Superintendent Krieski updated everyone on the street construction projects.

Aldersperson Sowieja asked when the potholes on Patch Street between the bridge and the Figi warehouse would be fixed?

Superintendent Krieski stated that they were manholes and that the water department would take care of fixing those.

Administrator Disher said he was aware of those and would take care of them.

Mayor Wescott moved, seconded by Aldersperson Barr to accept the June 2003 Superintendent of Services Report and place it on file.

Ayes - all; Nays - none; Motion carried.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wescott adjourned the July 2003 Board of Public Works meeting at 7:18 P.M.

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