

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 25, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT Jim Webber, Paul Deziel, Sarah Atkins Hoggatt

OTHERS PRESENT Michael Mroz

Roll call taken. Chairman Webber called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MOTION BY Deziel, second by Webber recommend approval of the February 5, 2019 Public Works Committee meeting minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSS WISCONSIN AND VINE STREET ON STREET BIKE LANES Mroz stated the Common Council, at the February 25, 2019 meeting, directed staff to incorporate on street bike lanes on Wisconsin Street in conjunction with the Vine Street improvement project planned for 2019.

Mroz referenced the proposed Wisconsin and Vine Street intersection plan. He noted the overall width of Wisconsin Street does not allow room for a designated bike lane. Mroz provided an alternate design called "shared lane markings" or "sharrows" which are lane markings used to provide a bikeway which still allows motorist to pass, requires no additional street space, keeps the bicyclists off the sidewalks and provides a specific path through the intersection. He stated this would be the first of its kind in the city and stated that proper signage would be included to alert both the motorists and the bicyclists.

MOTION by Atkins Hoggatt, second by Deziel to recommend incorporating the "shared lane markings" on Wisconsin Street as part of the Vine Street improvement project. Webber read a letter of support from Marion Webber in regard to the "sharrows" design proposed for Wisconsin Street. Noted the letter suggested using a bolder paint for the markings and referenced the "Safe Routes to School" recommendations. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSS THE PARKING OF VEHICLES ON CITY STREETS DURING A DECLARED SNOW EVENT

Mroz referred to the current City Ordinance 235-3 parking regulations for snow events. He stated in conversations with Chief Willems, it is agreeable that language changes to the existing ordinance could provide a clearer understanding to residents and enforcement procedures.

Mroz stated in the past that odd/even parking throughout the city failed due to various reasons. He mentioned that posting "No Parking November 1-April 1" throughout the entire city would not allow parking of any vehicles on any city streets during this time frame.

Mroz is suggesting changes to the ordinance that would include: removing the language which defines a snow event being a 2-inch snowfall; and also remove the language stating the event is enforceable until the street is plowed curb to curb. He stated both of these definitions have appeared to be problematic for residents and staff.

Mroz briefly explained the plowing protocol of the department and is recommending a snow event would be declared during the hours of 2 a.m. and 8 a.m. He stated a 5-6 hour window would provide the department ample time to open up the streets and give the police department a structured time for enforcing the no parking restrictions.

Further discussion of the city ordinance 235-3 continued. Atkins Hoggatt stated the ordinance reads that the city is not obligated to inform the public of a snow event however she is suggesting better communication through the means of the city web page, social media, press releases, notification sign ups, etc. It was suggested an insert be added the quarterly water bills to help get the information to the public.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE 2019 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM Mroz stated the annual sidewalk program has budgeted \$75,000 to repair and replace sidewalk, curb, and gutter throughout the city. He stated past practices have been to fix isolated problems based on complaints and some by request.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 25, 2019

Mroz is recommending an overall inventory of city sidewalks be performed with all the data collected being incorporated into an interactive map as part of the city's GIS system. He stated the information will assist with annual budgeting based on the priority ratings of the sidewalks and also benefit future grant opportunities for future sidewalks and trails. The estimated cost for the inventory is estimated between \$40,000-\$60,000.

Mroz stated the city's assessment policy for sidewalk replacement is currently 50/50% and new construction is 100%. He suggested some language changes to the current assessment policy for assessing for new sidewalks and to also include assessments for retaining walls.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE 2019 STREET MAINTENANCE PROJECT Mroz provided information on the street rating system and the proposed list of streets that will include crack filling and seal coating with a GSB-88 material. He briefly explained the differences in the processes used for maintenance of streets and is recommending using the GSB-88 process in the Hudson Meadows and Heritage Green developments.

Mroz stated the 2018 Street Maintenance program was postponed due to weather and will commence in the spring of 2019 and coincide with the 2019 program. Atkins questioned whether the rating system can be incorporated into the GIS system. Mroz stated the street ratings are required by the state bi-annually and the certified mileage reports are done annually. He noted transportation aids are based on the information provided by the municipalities.

Webber mentioned cracking along Grandview Drive that appear to be 2 inches wide. Mroz stated this is common due to reflection and will look at the area to incorporate into the 2019 program.

PROJECT UPDATE Mroz stated the delivery of salt has been placed on hold until further notice from the supplier. He stated the city contracts for 1600 ton annually with 300 ton on reserve. He stated crews have been directed to use limited salt and if needed go to the sand/salt mix.

Mroz stated that plowing operations in February consisted of 23 out of the 28 days. He stated the overtime to date is roughly \$29,000, with a line budget of \$41,400. Webber questioned whether contingency funds should be reallocated sooner than later. The overall Committee commended the Public Works Department for their excellent work throughout this winter.

Mroz stated the MS4 stormwater grant final payment was received. He announced the Hudson Urban Forestry Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 7 p.m. The Forum will be held at the Willow River Auditorium. He encourages the public to attend this informational meeting and added that a drawing for the Tree of the Year will be done.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Atkins Hoggatt mentioned the recycling containers in the park that are displaced. She is recommending they be paired with a garage container to promote recycling.

MOTION by Atkins Hoggatt, second by Deizel to adjourn the meeting. 6:14 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Submitted by,

Deb Andrews
Public Works Executive Assistant