

Public Works Committee
Tuesday, July 19, 2016 @ 6:00 PM
Hall of Fame Room – 381 E Main St.

Members Present: Alderpersons Tom Majewski, Sid Boersma and Kathleen Johnson

Absent/Excused: Pat O'Connor

Absent: Mayor Olson, Planning Director Rodney Scheel

Staff: Director of Public Works Brett Hebert and Vickie Erdahl

Guests: Alderperson Paul Lawrence, Charles Vervoot

Call to Order: *Majewski* called the meeting to order

- 1) **Communications:** *Hebert* announced the John Halverson had accepted the position of Street Department Supervisor. *Hebert* also discussed: 1) an item being reviewed for the budget and updated the committee that he would like to bring the Spray Patcher to town and use before making a final decision. 2) Mill Pond and will place black dirt in late August or September. 3) The Riverside Cemetery fountain sand blasting and the color selection limited options as the color used was a special aquatic which will fade.

Hebert wanted to discuss the issues regarding brush left in the parkrow and what procedures/options were available to him. The committee suggested checking the Public Nuisance Ordinance which the planning Department is responsible for enforcement along with public education. Also the committee would like to have the procedure for brush pick up reviewed to see what it costs the city now that the pickup was cut back from nine times a year to four times a year - It seems with all the extra people and equipment that is being used, it might not be the cost savings that was anticipated.

Majewski would like to see some signage and designated parking near the dam as vehicles are currently driving and parking on the walk path.

- 2) **Activity Reports:** *Hebert* stated that in the future that all street opening permits will be incorporated into the crack filling process that is done each year. *Hebert* also stated that there is too much mulch at Racetrack Park and he would like to put in a bunker and reduce the amount that can be dumped there. The activities for the following month:

Streets

- Crews have ground 55 stumps throughout the community.
- Removed 8 trees.
- Trimmed multiple trees.
- Crews participated in Confined Space, Bloodborne Pathogens, Workzone Safety, and Chainsaw
- The street sweepers have been out and have achieved the goal of sweeping the entire city in a month's time. The downtown still gets swept every Friday morning.
- Crews have been out with the spray patcher as much as possible to repair roadways.
- Crews have helped with fair preparation by trimming trees in Mandt Park, along Riverside Dr and cleaning out the Yahara River shoreline in this area to expose the beautiful river scape.
- Crews have hauled several loads of yard waste to the yard waste site.
- Crews hauled multiple loads of street sweeping to the landfill.
- Crews hauled chips from Racetrack Park to Troutman Family Farm to be
- Greenways have been all mowed once.

- Crews performed diggers locates on storm water infrastructure
- The administrative assistant has been busy with day to day operations and helping me with various questions that I have had.
- We have been putting together the CIP budgets and working on other budget related items.

Parks

- John has been working on getting Troll Beach back together after incident.
- Parks seasonal staff is working on mowing and trimming all parks at least once per week.
- Parks staff continues to prepare ball fields for play and shelters for rental.
- Crews trimmed an easement south of Racetrack Park

Other Routine Tasks

- Crews dumped trash barrels downtown and in the cemeteries, located cemetery plots, water levels at the dam were monitored and the dam was adjusted accordingly.

New Business:

- 4) **Approve June 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Johnson to approve minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

- 5) **Pond Maintenance Policy:** *Hebert* asked for direction on how to proceed with the Eastwood Estates Condo Assc. retention pond. The Condo Association wants the pond to be chemically treated with Qtrine and stated that the city had already agreed to do this. The General Maintenance Plan for Stormwater Ponds & Greenways, which was adopted July 28, 2015, only states to use chemicals if there is a need to control invasive species. *Johnson* stated that she had met with Mr. Neal to obtain the history of the pond and the situation. *Johnson* would like to do more research on the Qtrine product and check with other communities to see how they handle their ponds. *Mr. Neal* maintains that this pond is “unique”, is shallow and was not developed properly when the subdivision was built. This pond is also located near a “wetland” which is protected.

The DNR has been contacted and the Public Works Dept. did submit for a spraying contract which was approved. *Lawrence* also met with Mr. Neal to discuss the situation and stated that the agreement was to do this spraying and would seek further action.

However, after more research in the process *Hebert* found that the pond would need to be sprayed every seven to ten days at a cost of \$1,000 per treatment as no employee is certified to spray chemicals which is feels is a lot of money to pay each year and would rather seek a long term solution and told the condo association that he is willing to work with them for an effective solution.

After this discussion the committee does not want chemicals used and stated the pond has issues and standards were different when this pond was developed. The committee is concerned about the whole issue and would rather seek a long term solution other than chemicals being used.

- 6) **Snow Plow Options:** *Hebert* reviewed the current snow plowing procedure and presented two options that he felt would be viable solutions addressing both the pros and the cons of each option. After discussing the options the committee choose option one that included having the downtown corridor time frame for snow removal from sidewalks be only 24 hours to coincide with snow pick and clean up. This ordinance is Chapter 64-13 Snow and Ice Removal.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Johnson to support the staff recommendation to change the language in Chapter 64-14 Snow and ice removal policy to reduce the 48 hours to 24 hours for snow removal in the downtown business district corridor {S Page St – to the railroad tracks} and then send to the Common Council for approval.

- 7) **Discussion – Street Right-of-Way Minimums:** *Majewski* would like to review Ordinance 66 which states what the options are for right of way and street widths as he would like to see narrower roads and park rows of eleven feet minimum. Staff has been directed to discuss the ordinance with the Planning Dept.

- 8) **Discussion – East Main Street Tree Planting:** *Majewski* inquired as to why the trees were cut down on E Main Street and have not been replaced. When the East Main St road construction happened the Elm trees on the north side were removed because of the construction and too much damage to the root system and the trees were inappropriate for such a small parkrow and were doing damage to the sidewalks. *Majewski* state this is a major road into the city and the one sided planting was not acceptable and asked that the Urban Forester do an analysis of the street to determine how many and what type of trees can be planted there.

- 10) **Future Agenda Items:** Park Row Brush, Analysis of Brush Pick up Costs, Change to Snow Ordinance 64-13

Moved by Boersma seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Motion carried 3-0. Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl Administrative Assistant – 7/21/2016