

Public Works Committee
Tuesday, August 16, 2016 @ 6:00 PM
Hall of Fame Room – 381 E Main St.

Members Present: Alderpersons Tom Majewski, Sid Boersma, Pat O'Connor and Kathleen Johnson

Absent/Excused:

Absent: Mayor Olson, Planning Director Rodney Scheel

Staff: Director of Public Works Brett Hebert and Vickie Erdahl

Guests:

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

- 1) **Communications:** *Hebert* announced that he was not happy with the cleanup of the slag seal and lack of response to the cities calls. Sweeping of the city was to take place 48 hours after completing the project. A Street Department crew has to sweep multiple streets which the company reimbursed the city for. *Hebert* suggested that a penalty be written into the contract for next year.

Boersma reported out from the Tree Commission about needing more employees and how to handle hazardous private trees which some of the cities ordinances indicate that we need to deal with these trees. *Hebert* stated that he had requested more employees and also would check into dealing with trees and if necessary, change the ordinances as the city does not have time to be dealing with or being involved in private issues.

Majewski commented that he the process for removing the ash trees can be extend for more than the two to three years listed in the Request for Proposals.

Hebert discussed 1) parkrow restorations for the streets that were pulverized in 2016. Door hangers will be distributed for the proper care of the area since there were complaints of how the parkrows looked. The contractor followed the DOT protocol for dirt, grass seed with straw on top. 2) Crews have been street painting 3) Van Buren, Clyde & Wilson project is behind schedule – did not pass the test roles. The school areas will be addressed first – a map will go out & be posted to show the flow of the traffic to be used for the area. Trees will be planted in the parkrows at a later date. *Majewski* feels that Utilities should be contributing toward parkrow trees when they are removed from under lines. *Hebert* will discuss the issue with Bob Kardasz and invite him to the next Public Works meeting in September.

- 2) **Activity Reports:** Reported out only on the street opening permits and yard waste permits & activity.
- 3) **Wood Lot in Lowell Park along Milwaukee Street – Update:** *Hebert* stated that a crew had dealt with the immediate hazards, but more needs to be done when time permits. *Majewski* would like *Hebert* to find out where the Park boundaries are and what is public land?
- 4) **Eastwood Pond Update:** *Hebert* met with the Eastwood Condo Assc for further discussion on the maintenance of the pond. *Hebert* has contracted Aquaboitics to do a study and assess the pond. The report will be presented at the September meeting for review/discussion. The committee feels it would be good to have something in place by the spring when the ponds should be addressed instead of waiting until there is a problem that can't be controlled.

Hebert stated to the committee that Paradise Pond had been pumped too low – by error. He then met with Kensington Square homeowners after receiving multiple calls. Two poles have been placed which show the hi / low measurements for the pond. The homeowners are going to work with the city and notify us if they see anything of concern.

5) **Emerald Ash Borer Update:** *Hebert* has continued working on the RFP, when completed the document will be sent to the Tree Commission for review and then forwarded to the Public Works committee. Currently the plan is two years to remove parkrow ash trees and another year to remove the ash trees in the Parks. *Majewski* stated the contract may have to extend out for another few years if necessary for financial reasons.

6) **Yardwaste Proposed Program / Ordinance Changes:** *Hebert* proposed to make changes to the current brush pickup program. Everyone on the committee agreed that it looks unsightly around town and the current program is not working – need to educate the public. The current program is brush is picked up four times a year (April, May, October & November)

The changes proposed are to reduce pick up to three times a year (April, July & October), limit the amounts put to the curb and to add language to Ordinance 62-2 dumping in park row prohibited & 50-5(h) littering prohibited in order to enforce the changes.

Majewski requested that new numbers be run for brush pickup to know the true cost savings.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Johnson to approve adding the language of brush & yard waste to ordinances 62-2 and after making the following changes to 50-5 (h). [Add parkrow / city right-of-way excluding during scheduled brush & yardwaste pickups. Carried 4-0.

The committee after a short discussion does not want to reduce the number of brush pickups, but thinks changing November to July would be a good idea.

Motion by Majewski, seconded by Boersma to approve the date change of the November brush pickup to a July pickup. Carried 4-0-

Enforcement of ordinance will be done by the Public Works Department with a tag left with resident to remove brush with in a time frame or a fine will be given. Door hangers will be tracked by address.

7) **Downtown Snow Removal Program / Ordinance Changes:** *Hebert* is making changes to the current Ord 64-13 (a)(b) and committee requested that the language include the defined perimeters of the downtown area and bring back to the committee for review. Also in the Winter Road & Sidewalk Procedures, in the second paragraph, first line change the word “*intend*” to “*intent*” and also review the whole document for any other changes or updates then post to the city website.

New Business:

8) **Approve July 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Johnson to approve minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

9) **Discussion – East Main Street Tree Planting:** *Majewski* inquired as to why there was only one sided planting done after so many trees were removed. *Hebert* had the forester assess the street and develop a plan for planting. *Nelson* identified 27 planting sites and suggested that small columnar type trees be planted. His estimation of costs would be approximately

\$11,000. *Majewski & Johnson* both disagreed with the assessment stating medium size trees could be planted. The parkrow in this area is about five feet and there would need to be limitations to avoid sidewalks heaving. *Majewski* asked *Boersma* to discuss this issue at the next Tree Commission meeting with the Chair.

O'Connor wanted to know the cost per tree and if planted, how to maintain in the long run since there is limited staff and trees that we aren't maintaining now. The committee feels that the existing staff needs to be trained more and also develop a pruning cycle.

- 10) **Mandt Park Discussion:** *Majewski* started a discussion on his concerns and the maintenance of the park which is leased to the Fair Board. The river banks need to be managed better to include native planting which would enhance the area and suggested that the city could work with Sustainable Stoughton since manpower is an issue.

The barns at this park are in bad shape and the park is not being utilized to its full extent. Staff was requested to check with the City of Middleton to find out what consulting firm it uses to have the park assessed. Again, park borders need to be identified, and *Majewski* suggested to coordinate upgrades and restoration of the park with the Park & Recreation Committee and the River & Trails Task Force.

- 11) **Future Agenda Items:** Park Row Brush, Analysis of Brush Pick up Costs, Yardwaste - Change to Ordinance 62-2 & 50-5 (h), Changes to Snow Ordinance 64-13 (a)(b), Eastwood Pond Study, Park Boundaries

Moved by O'Connor seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Motion carried 4-0. Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl Administrative Assistant – 8/18/2016