Public Works Committee
Thursday, December 17, 2020
(Virtual Meeting)

Members Present: Tom Majewski, Sid Boersma, Fred Hundt, Lisa Reeves and Mayor Swadley

Absent/Excused: NA

Staff: Public Works Director Brett Hebert, Planning Director Rodney Scheel and Vickie Erdahl

Guests: NA

Call to Order: *Majewski* called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

1) Communications: *Hebert* reported:

- Announced that Vickie Erdahl would be retiring on January 15, 2021. Applications were due by December 22, 2020
- City was recognized as Climate Champions by Dane County for the energy savings initiatives that were installed in the new Public Works Facility
- PW staff will develop a maintenance plan for natural areas – put on future agenda
- We received a total of 5 ½ inches of wet snow from the Friday – Saturday snowfall. Hebert stated there was some issues with residents shoveling out the sidewalk ramps. Hebert will assign someone to monitor the downtown area and remove snow and ice from downtown ramps as needed. Reeves asked about corner clean up on residential streets which is an issue – Hebert stated that PW would do a marketing push to remind residents to clear sidewalk ramps.

2) Approve November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Boersma seconded by Reeves to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business:

3) Discuss Downtown Planters (Potential Locations Maintenance, Cost) – Recommend to Table: *Hebert* reported that information is still being gathered and discussions are on-going with the Chamber. Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to table until January 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

4) Update on 2020 Landscaping for City Hall, Public Safety Bldg. and Senior Center:

Scheel stated it was hard to get contracts and had received only one bid. Many requests were sent out, however, a lot of companies had more work than they could handle which is way the project is scheduled for the spring. The bid was awarded to Moyer's Inc.

Currently the areas are overgrown so will be removed and replaced with beautifying but being mindful of maintenance issues/costs. Reeves asked for plants that are pollinator friendly and bloom at different times.

The committee discussed the plan, but no official action was needed.

5) Review Specifications for City Sidewalks and Driveway Entrance Details: *Scheel* discussed the new specifications which included the increase of concrete driveways and

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sidewalk bases be increased from 4" to 5" and recommended that they be adopted into the sidewalk and driveway specifications used by the city.

Updated drawings will be shared with the public and contractors.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to recommend to the Common Council to adopt the updates for the Standards for Sidewalks which were endorsed by the Public Works Committee. Motion carried 4-0

6) **Discussion on Decorations Over the Right of Way:** *Hebert* brought to the attention of the committee a situation in the Nordic Ridge subdivision where homeowners had strung holiday lights across the street from one house to another house stating he felt that this poses a potential problem.

Hebert was checking with the City Electrical Inspector on potential National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) electrical code violation.

Hebert also checked and provided the State Statue 66.0425 – Privileges in streets which could pertain to this lighting situation. This would allow residents to string lights across the right of way as long as they obtain a permit from the city and they meet all NFPA codes.

Committee reviewed and discussed options, but decided that it would be in the best interest of the city to not allow the lights across the street due to potential liability reasons and the need to have inspections completed by the Electrical Inspector or each property that would want to string lights across the right of way from one dwelling to another.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to direct Director Hebert to draft a letter to the residents involved that the city does not allow this type of lighting and to remove. Motion carried 4-0.

7) **Review and Approve the Memorial Bench Program:** Presented program was reviewed and concerns discussed. A spelling error was noticed in the fourth paragraph – fourth line the word "plague" will be changed to "plaque".

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Reeves to approve the Memorial Bench Program. Motion carried 4-0

8) **Update on the Emerald Ash Borer Program Final Figures:** *Hebert* presented the results of the three (3) year EAB ash tree removal program. Due to favorable contracts, which resulted in lower costs forremoval enabled the city to remove more ash trees than anticipated plus treat over 100 trees for over $100,000 less that what was initially budgeted. In total, 911 trees were removed and 1,423 trees of multiple variety were purchased and planted throughout the urban forest as part of the program.

Kudos were sent out to John Kemppainen, City Forester, including his crew for a great job.

9) **Approve the 2021 Tree Trimming Contract**: Three competitive bids were received for the 2021 Trimming Contract. Tree Wise Men, LLC were the lowest bidder in the amount of $42,085.00. who received the contract in 2020 and did great work.

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Motion by Boersma, seconded by Hundt to recommend to Common Council to award the 2021 Contract in the amount of $42,085.00 to Tree Wise Men LLC. Motion carried 4-0.

10) **Review 2020 Yard Waste Site Season Totals:** *Hebert* presented totals for the year and despite the late start the site grossed $26,120 which includes increase of usage from the townships.

11) **Future Agenda Items:** Downtown Planters, Prairie Management and Bjoin Park and Pedestrian Bridge

12) **Adjourn:** **Motion to adjourn by Majewski, seconded by Reeves to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried 4-0.** Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl

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