Public Works Committee
Thursday, November 21, 2019
Public Works Facility, 2439 County Rd A

Members Present: Alderpersons Matt Bartlett, Lisa Reeves, Sid Boersma, Tom Majewski and Mayor Swadley

Absent/Excused: Planning Director Rodney Scheel

Staff: Public Works Director Brett Hebert and Vickie Erdahl

Guests: Attorney Richard Yde, SWAC Owner Tom Weigand and David Baehr – American Realtors

Call to Order: *Bartlett* called the meeting to order @ 6:00 PM

1) Communications: *Hebert* reported:

- Leaf Collection is behind due to 15.4 inches of snow and cold temperatures. The Leaf Trucks have been going out as much as possible which includes staggering hours to be out longer. If the temperature warms the Sweepers will go out.
- Lien's Lumber & Sawmill milled 8-10 logs for the city. About ½ of the wood is currently being dried in the solar kiln.
- The City received $27,000 from the Local Road Improvement Program.
- The Road Construction Projects for this year have been behind and the company has missed the deadline and are now into liquidated damages. S Monroe & Patterson St has a binder coat down until the spring.
- Intercon has been working on a project on Main St which in preparation for the 2020 DOT road construction of Hwy 51.

Old Business:

New Business:

2) Approve October 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Boersma seconded by Reeves to approve the minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

6) Discussion and Possible Action – Hoel Avenue Roundabout Project Access to Stoughton Wellness Center: Moved to first item discussed. *Scheel* drafted a resolution in behalf of the Stoughton Wellness Center to show support to modify the design to facilitate access to their property.

The current owner, Tom Weigand, and the potential new owner, David Baehr spoke to the committee about contacting the Department of Transportation (DOT) and obtained a meeting with the DOT Regional Manager to discuss a deceleration lane being placed on HWY 51 after the roundabout at Hoel Avenue.

Currently the roundabout at Hoel Avenue will direct traffic coming from the east to turn right onto Silverado Dr and go to Jackson St then left to Dvorak Ct to enter the facilities parking lot. Hoiby Rd which is currently used to turn left off of Silverado Dr will not be an option when the roundabout is developed.

The owner also stated that this Anytime Fitness is the largest and felt the DNR should review the traffic on a weekend to judge how this will affect the facility which such limited access and the loss of business.

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The committee stated that the plan presented with an entrance/exit on Hwy 51 was never presented as an option at the original planning stages of this project several years ago and would like support the SWAC, by requesting the DOT to review and consider improving access to the facility.

Motion by Reeves, seconded by Majewski to recommend to the Common Council to support the request to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to consider improving access to the Stoughton Wellness Center at 2300 USH 51/138 as part of the project to install roundabouts on US Highway 51 at Hoel/Silverado, STH 138 and Roby Road scheduled to be constructed in 2021. Motion carried 5-0 (with the Mayor voting yes)

Boersma left the meeting @ 6:40 PM

3) **Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Public Works Policy for Removal of Trees on Private Property:** *Hebert* presented for discussion the Policy to Inspect Trees on Private Property along with the newly created Ordinance 58-12 & 58-13 regarding Public nuisances.

Committee members were concerned about employees being on private property and the legal issues surrounding enforcements, costs and how to administrate these costs if a tree is contacted to be removed unless if affects city property directly – unless the tree on private property interferes directly with city property.

City Forester receives complaints now about trees on private property between homeowners. It was suggested that he advise the homeowner to discuss the issue with the neighbor or contact their insurance company for information on how to resolve.

In discussing the policy, the committee would like wording/clarification) to be changed in1.0 Purpose paragraph and some language added to Ordinance 58-12 C (1)

Motion by Bartlett, seconded by Reeves to recommend approval of the Policy to Inspect Trees on Private Property after wording is corrected in1.0 Purpose and add "other public property" to Ordinance 58-12 C (1). Motion carried 3-0.

4) **Discussion about Potential Brush Collection Revenue Options:** *Hebert* discussed the costs for the 2019 brush collections which included wages, equipment and fuel – did not include storm damage pickups. *Hebert* presented three collection fee options which would be handled, if implemented, much like the city does trash collection charges. *Jamin Freidl* of the Finance Dept. stated that the city could charge residents if this direction is chosen. The City Attorney stated that making this change to having a revenue for brush collection would not affect the city levy.

Hebert stated that in 2020 changes have been made to collection process – which includes the elimination of the January brush pick up and stating specific sizes for branch diameter, length and pile sizes.

One member of the committee stated that no changes should be made and brush collection should remain as a service to the community. Another member stated the city provides more services than most communities, but was also concerned about the cost being a burden to the residents and questioned whether the all funds collected to come to the Public Works Department.

Other comments included that the cost for this activity will continue to rise and how would the special charges be assessed and more investigation and info need to be provided.

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Motion by Bartlett, seconded by Reeves to send to Finance the first special fee option of - Charge a special fee to all dwellings up to 4 units (mirrors the solid waste fee structure) to collect brush curbside four (4) times per year and collect Christmas trees in January. Potential Rate Scenarios: 4524 x $5 = $22,620, - 4524 x $10 = $45,240, - 4524 x $15 = $67,860, - 4524 x $16 = $72,384

Motion declined with a 2 to 2 vote with the Mayor voting no.

5) **Discussion and Adoption of the Urban Wood Utilization Program:** *Hebert* reviewed the program with the committee. Wood from city trees is currently being stored in the cold storage building. *Bartlett* stated that the Tree Commission recently held a lumber sale and sold just under $1,500 which will be used to mill more logs and purchase trees for planting. *Bartlett* also discussed the Tree Commission working with the group *"New World Oseberg Wagon Project"* where they will be replicating an authentic Viking wagon.

Motion by Reeves, seconded by Bartlett to approve the Adoption of the Wood Utilization Program. Motion carried 4-0 with the Mayor voting yes.

7) **Future Agenda Items:**

Moved by Reeves seconded by Majewski to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Motion carried 3-0. Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl Administrative Assistant – 11/__/19

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