

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Minutes – August 3, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Public Works Committee for the City of Monona was called to order at 6:35pm by Alderman Holmquist.

Present: Alderman Holmquist, Mr. McConnell, Ms. Busse, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Turino, Mr. Podell

Excused: Alderman Speight, Mr. Stolper, Mr. Besch

Also Present: Monona residents Evelyn Ehlenfeldt, Rebecca Bernstein, Mike & Theresa Sonn, Mike Basarich, Dan Steiner, Jessica Edwards, City Engineer Josh Straka, and DPW Director Dan Stephany

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Busse, and seconded by Mr. Turino to approve the Public Works Committee minutes of July 11, 2016, was carried. The approved minutes should indicate that Mr. Franklin was at the July 11, 2016 meeting.

APPEARANCES –

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

5A: Local road reconstruction design update and discussion: Engineer, Josh Straka, explained the updated McKenna design for the committee. The discussion focused on trees and the proposed placement of sidewalks. The red circles on the print indicate trees that would be removed due to sidewalk installation or utility lateral installation. Green circles are trees that are in good health and that are not planned to be removed as part of the project. The Blue circles represent trees in fair condition. Mr. Straka reminded the committee that tree roots on most of these trees may be cut due to reconstruction. A terrace is maintained along the majority of the street to allow for winter snow storage. There is one section where the sidewalk is directly behind the curb because of the numerous trees and shrubs. Ten trees are to be removed, and 6 of those are being removed because of utility impacts.

Mr. Straka also discussed the potential for bike lanes on McKenna instead of sidewalks. This option came up at the public information meeting. In this option, eight feet of pavement would be added to the street, which would widen the road to forty feet, front of curb to front of curb. With this option nine trees would be removed. In either scenario, six trees will be removed because of utility construction.

Another option to be considered is the installation of two speed tables on McKenna. Mr. Straka explained the construction details of installing the speed humps, and that the City of Madison has them in a few locations. Alderman Holmquist mentioned that the City's new fire truck has features that will allow it to go over streets with speed tables. Speed tables are designed to help slow down traffic.

Director Stephany discussed the various comments that were received prior to the meeting. All comments that were received were included in the committee packet.

Director Stephany stated that residents will have access to their driveways on all streets during construction, but not when equipment is in front of their house. All roads will be closed to through traffic, but open to local traffic only.

Alderman Holmquist stated that residents in the area have contacted him about installing bike lanes on both sides and parking on one side. The residents he talked to felt that in Monona, the roads are for parking, driving, biking and walking. Residents were concerned with the sidewalk location in relation to how close it would be to the homes, and where the sidewalk crosses through the driveway. The ability to park in the driveway may be impacted by the location of the sidewalk through the driveway.

Ms. Busse asked what the City's current standard is for street width. City Ordinance states 28' wide asphalt to asphalt, and 33' back of curb to back of curb. Mr. Straka mentioned that Monona and Madison tend to have narrower streets than other surrounding communities. The proposed option with sidewalk is 33' back of curb to back of curb. The option with bike lanes would be 41' wide, back of curb to back of curb. Mr. Turino mentioned there are more options for the City with a wider street.

The general discussion from the committee for McKenna supports the wider street option, without sidewalks. A wider road with two speed humps and bike lanes, would add about \$50,000 to the project, and with fewer impacts to property. The option of adding sidewalks and no bike lanes would add about \$68,000 to the project. Speed humps would be listed as a bid alternate.

Future committee discussion will take place on the installation of bike lanes, speed humps, and on what side parking would be eliminated on.

5B: Consideration of Resolution 16-7-2109 accepting the PSC's water rate increase: Finance Director, Marc Houtakker, appeared in front of the committee to present the update from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission on the City's water rate increase request. The PSC returned two possible rate structures for the City to consider; Option 1, the same structure that is currently in place with increases, and Option 2, a flat fee conservation rate structure with increases for multifamily and non-residential units. Both options are proposing a 15% rate increase. Residents currently have an inclining rate structure, and commercial has a declining rate structure. Reasons for the water rate increase are to meet current and near future debt requirements, and the utility lost its largest customer in 2014.

Mr. Podell asked what amount of profit the utility is allowed. Director Houtakker stated the utility is allowed to make 5% profit annually.

Mr. Franklin asked how Monona compares to Madison for water rates. Director Houtakker did not have this information.

A motion was made by Mr. Turino, and seconded by Ms. Busse to recommend approval of the proposed Option 2 flat fee conservation rate structure was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

6A: Consideration of the proposed 2017 Capital Budget for the public works department: Director Stephany presented the draft 2017 capital budget for equipment and projects that was included in the packet for review. Director Stephany explained each item for discussion.

Alderman Holmquist stated that the construction expense and administration expense for the 2017 road reconstruction project be combined and presented as one item.

Mr. Turino asked what we have for backup power at the public works garage. Director Stephany responded that we use a small portable generator at the shop. Alderman Holmquist stated that the public works facility would be used as an incident command center if City Hall is ever affected by a natural disaster. Given this fact the public works facility should be looked at for a more reliable back up power system and should be added to the review.

A motion was made by Mr. Podell, and seconded by Mr. Franklin to recommend approval of the projects portion of the capital budget as presented was carried.

A motion was made by Mr. McConnell, and seconded by Ms. Busse to recommend approval of the equipment portion of the capital budget as presented was carried.

6B: Review of the Industrial Drive sanitary sewer maintenance draft agreement with the City of Madison: Director Stephany explained the draft agreement that was included in the packet. Discussion on the agreement will take place at the September meeting, after Attorney Cole has had an opportunity to review the agreement and provide comment. Director Stephany provided a copy of the agreement in advance of the September meeting to allow enough time for committee members to read it before taking action on it.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday, September 7, 2016, Monona City Hall, at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Podell and seconded by Ms. Busse to adjourn was carried (9:29 pm).

Daniel Stephany
Director of Public Works