

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Minutes – February 3, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Public Works Committee for the City of Monona, via Zoom, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Committee Chair, Jennifer Kuhr.

Members Present: Alder Kuhr, Alder Thomas, Ms. Piliouras, Mr. Stolper, Ms. Gundlach, Mr. Speight, Mr. Besch, Mr. Turino,

Members Absent: Mr. Podell

Also Present: Tim Casper – Monona resident, Gregg Borucki – MSA Project Engineer, Public Works Director Dan Stephany

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Turino and seconded by Mr. Besch to approve the Minutes of the December 2, 2020 Public Works Committee meeting was carried.

### APPEARANCES

Tim Casper – Attorney at Murphy Desmond, appeared on behalf of Candyce VerBurg and the residents in the 4300 block of Shore Acres Road. Mr. Casper read from a petition listing resident issues regarding recently adopted alternate side parking requirements by the Public Works Committee and City Council. Mr. Casper stated the ten residents from six properties who signed the petition are requesting the committee revoke the year round alternate side parking requirements.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Stephany provided a verbal update on the list of streets that will receive chip sealing and mill and overlay in 2021. Both projects will be advertised for bidding in early spring.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Discussion on Shore Acres alternate side parking.

Mr. Casper stated the issues listed on the petition to the committee. The petition states:

- alternate side parking is not safe for three residents due to the curve in the street
- it is unconstitutional to place alternate side parking requirement upon residents for the convenience of street maintenance, placing an undue burden on residents
- alternate side parking is an inconvenience for residents for the convenience of street maintenance laborers
- it is punitive for the few times a year work gets completed
- the main issue is about high school student parking on the street with a solution to complete city services before and after school hours, using temporary no-parking signs as needed.

Director Stephany followed up by stating the City operations budget does not provide funding for City services to be completed in over-time situations outside of normal working hours. City policy states that standard working hours for staff are from 7:00am to 3:30pm. It is most cost efficient for City services to be provided during normal working hours. Prior to alternate side parking requirements being put in place, residents on the east side of the street received poor services for brush collection, leaf collection, and snow removal on the east side of the street,

all due to student parking during normal working hours. Establishing year round alternate side parking provides a way for City services to be completed evenly in this section of Shore Acres.

Director Stephany informed the committee that the VerBurg's stated they didn't like the alternate side parking because it would be hard for them to see oncoming traffic as they back out of their driveway. The vegetation and parked cars would impact their vision. The director offered to trim back the vegetation in the street right of way to make it easier to see, which they rejected. The vegetation has not been trimmed back. The City also installed a blind driveway sign prior to the driveway to help with this concern.

Mr. Casper stated the residents felt they haven't been heard on this issue and asked if it was possible to get this back on the agenda for further consideration. Alder Kuhr responded stating no residents attended any of the previous sessions at the public works committee or City Council where this change was discussed and approved. Residents are welcome to attend as an appearance to voice their concerns with alternate side parking.

Director Stephany mentioned that letters were sent to all residents informing them of the proposed change at the time. No comments were received from the letter other than those provided by the VerBurg's.

Mr. Speight stated that vegetation in the street right of way causing an unsafe sight line obstruction is in violation of City Ordinance and should be immediately removed. If not, citations should be issued. Vegetation in the street right of way causing sight line issues is a safety hazard, and a safety hazard pointed out by the people who live there. Student parking should be taken up with the school board by the VerBurg's. The City is doing the responsible thing to manage the parking of cars in the neighborhood. Alternate side parking addresses the issues of properly maintaining City services and parking at the same time.

Mr. Turino stated the curve and vegetation does provide a visual problem. If the resident is unwilling to cut back the vegetation their solution to make it safer should be for the resident to back into their driveway and then drive out for better visibility.

#### Discussion and consideration of Pirate Island Bridge Improvements bid award.

Director Stephany explained the bid information included in the committee packet. R.G. Huston provided the only bid, for a price of \$1,193,436.94. R.G. Huston is a contractor the City is familiar with. Huston completed all three phases of Monona Drive reconstruction. This project was bid twice in 2020 and was not approved due to funding not being enough to cover the bid cost. R.G. Huston bid both times in 2020.

Mr. Borucki stated he talked with a few of the contractors who took out plans but did not bid to find out why. The consensus was that most contractors are focusing on the large bridge projects through the Wisconsin DOT. Those projects are much larger than Monona's and provide enough work to keep their staff working.

A motion was made by Mr. Turino and seconded by Mr. Stolper to recommend approval of the R.G. Huston bid amount of \$1,193,436.94 for the Pirate Island Bridge Improvements Project was carried.

#### Discussion and consideration of Parking Ordinance update for apartment area parking during declared snow emergency.

Director Stephany explained the draft map provided in the committee packet. The City received a few calls after the first snow emergency in 2021 regarding the lack of parking in the Valorie, Gordon, and Wallace area. There is limited parking lot parking for residents and a number of residents have to park on the street. When a snow emergency is called, all the cars have to be removed from the street. In this area of the City there are no public lots nearby for residents to move their cars to. Alternate side parking is provided on Wallace between St. Theresa and Valorie, and on Valorie between Wallace and Gordon. During snow emergencies parking would be allowed as signed. Gordon, between St. Theresa and Valorie has parking restrictions during the daytime, Monday through Friday, and St. Theresa only allows parking in the westbound lane.

Mr. Stolper said he agrees with allowing parking on the streets during a snow emergency where we have alternate side parking. What should be changed is consideration for making Gordon and St. Theresa alternate side parking as well. This would allow for proper snow removal during a snow emergency and during normal plowing. Mr. Stolper asked the director how snow removal could be completed in the southbound lane of Gordon when this is the only lane residents can park in during the day. Regarding snow clearing on Gordon, the practice has been to go back the first few days and plow any new areas that are open after cars leave. Having alternate side parking will make snow removal easier in this area.

Alder Thomas believes there are many more cars today than when the apartments were built that add to the parking situation here.

Mr. Besch said it would make sense to go to alternate side parking on Gordon and on St. Theresa year round. This would eliminate any confusion. Mr. Besch asked if there is any reason why these streets don't have alternate side parking as well. Director Stephany said he would check past Ordinance changes for the reason these streets are signed the way they are now.

Mr. Stolper added that this is what he was referring to as well, making these areas alternate side parking year round. The director will check the file and bring this topic back to the committee at a later date for consideration.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Mr. Besch and seconded by Mr. Speight to adjourn was carried (7:15pm).

Daniel Stephany  
Director of Public Works