

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – May 31, 2016

Members Present: Phil Wedekind, Tom Kolb, and Mike Plautz. **Others Present:** Tom Pinion, Ed Geick, R Koss, Chief Schauf, and Atty. Alene Kleczek Bolin.

Call to Order - Committee Chairman Phil Wedekind called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at the City Services Center, 450 Roundhouse Court, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the agenda as posted and by voice vote, the motion carried. It was moved by Plautz, seconded by Kolb to approve the minutes of the May 2 meeting. By voice vote the motion carried.

New Business

- a. Review City's Special Assessment procedure for new sidewalks and consider an alternative procedure utilizing a special charge – Pinion said that this has come up more by accident than by design. Atty Bolin joined the City and sat through the sidewalk assessment procedure this year and informed him what seems to be a much simpler procedure, at least statutory wise, instead of a special assessment, it is called a special charge; however, it follows the general same course. Under the special charge system, the Council would say what they wanted done, the order is issued and it is done, it eliminates the public hearing component. He said the special assessment charge maintains the public hearing component. He said that if the Commission feels that the special charge may be a bit simpler it doesn't mean that a public hearing has to be held; however, it doesn't mean that one can't be held, one could be held at the committee level or at Council. Attorney Bolin said that under the Special Assessment procedure there is a Preliminary Resolution, then the public hearing, and then the final resolution; however, under the Special Charge there is either resolution or ordinance, and the City can provide as much notice as wanted. Wedekind feels that the Special Assessment process gives residents too many chances at it and gets too repetitious. Pinion said from his perspective it has been a positive thing that the Council has been consistent, if they start to waiver from policy that is what will create more controversy. Plautz said that he likes the way it is done; he likes to hear what the citizens have to say before the City assesses them. Attorney Bolin said that the citizens would have a chance to speak before the resolution or ordinance was done. Discussion then took place regarding where the citizens should speak if going with the special charge procedure, at the Commission level or Council. Atty Bolin said that the City would still have to use the same procedure that is currently being used now for everything other than sidewalks. Geick feels that for sidewalks it would be a good idea and simplifies the matter. Pinion said that the payment options would remain the same under either procedure. Kolb moved to utilize the special charge procedure as long as all affected citizens are notified prior to the work being done and public hearing being held. The motion was seconded by Plautz. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Consider imposing a parking restriction on Waldo Street between South Blvd. and Quarry Street – Pinion said that he has received a handful of complaints, especially since South Blvd. as been finished. He said that this is an offset intersection with Hitchcock, but with vehicles parking along Pointon Communications, it is more difficult to see traffic that is cued up there, it effectively narrows the street which makes traffic turning movement more difficult to achieve. Therefore, a suggestion has been made to eliminate parking. He said that it is already posted as no parking on the east side of the road, and now it is being requested to restrict parking on the west side also. I was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to restrict parking on the west side of Waldo Street between South Blvd. and Quarry Street. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Consider imposing a parking restriction on the west side of Broadway north of 7th Avenue – Pinion said that he has several complaints from the same individual, he has lived there for seven years and doesn't like the vehicles parked along Gateway Gardens. He said that there is a truck and trailer that is parked there routinely, and the individual feels that it impairs his ability to see oncoming traffic. He said that he has not received any other complaints and he and Chief Schauf have reviewed this and they don't see this as being problematic. Schauf said that it is a pickup truck and trailer parked there, but it isn't in violation of ordinance and does not create any specific sight or roadway obstruction that has caused him any concern. It was moved by Wedekind, seconded by Kolb not to impose a parking restrict on the west side of Broadway north of 7th Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Consider request for a Handicap Accessible Parking Stall on west side of Oak Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, near Yarns Art Café at 401 Oak Street – Pinion said that he has had several requests from the proprietor of the Yarn Arts Café, which use to be located next to the Coffee Bean on 5th Avenue and Oak Street and is now located at the old Alliant Energy Building on 2nd and Oak. He said that the owner has said that she has some elderly customers that come in to crochet and knit and she would like an accessible parking stall so they would have a place to park. He then gave the Committee a summary of parking stalls, there are 10 different on-site accessible stalls in the downtown area, an additional 15 in municipal parking lots in the immediate downtown area. He said that when stalls are posted for accessible parking, it is exclusively for the people that are eligible and taking away one for the general public. He said that he asked Lacey Steffes, President of DBI as to whether they would be willing to offer some recommendations on these, whether we should move one or add one when these requests come in and she said that DBI would more than willing to provide the City with that level of feedback. He said that he doesn't know if the Committee has to act on it now, DBI's next meeting isn't until June 21, but in this particular case where Yarns Art Café is on the northwest quadrant of that section, and kitty-corner across the intersection is the upper parking lot of the Civic Center parking lot and there are three stalls in that lot marked as accessible. Kolb asked Schauf if those stalls were routinely filled and he said no. Pinion said that another difficulty with a on-street parking stall, in this case these are parallel stalls, there is no accessible isle, the ramp would have to fold down on top of the curb to give good wheelchair access from the vehicle to the sidewalk, if that isn't the situation, people still have to navigate that six-inch high curb or roll their wheelchair down to the corner where there is a ramp. Plautz moved, Kolb seconded to deny the request for a handicap accessible parking stall on the west side of Oak Street, between 2nd and rd Avenues, near Yarns Art Café at 401 Oak Street. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Consider request by Gary Zellmer, owner of the property at S4159 CTH A in the Town of Baraboo, to connect to the City's watermain on CTH A – Attorney Bolin said that the City can decide the boundaries of where to provide utilities and water; therefore, it is a legal thing that can occur. She said that she was approached by Engineer Pinion to look at doing a pre-annexation agreement which would require the owner to agree to annex the property once that it became contiguous to the City; however, legally we can't do that, therefore, there is really nothing that the City can do to insure that the owner would annex the property at a later date. She said that one thing that would be helpful, that the City hasn't been able to accomplish is a boundary agreement with the Town of Baraboo. Pinion said that once the property owners have sewer and/or water, it takes away their incentive to annex because they have the services that would really afford them; however, the Water Utility could always use the addition revenue. Pinion said at this time the ordinance restricts access outside the City to the 13 designated properties, if the Committee wants to expand that, the ordinance would need to be changed; however, there couldn't be any string attached to it that would be associated with annexation at any point in the future. Pinion said that Zellmer just purchased this property and the property condition report suggests the well needs new casings, so he can spend dollars on another temporary well,

or he could put the money towards a permanent connection to the City's water main. Kolb moved, Plautz seconded to deny the request of Gary Zellmer, owner of the property at S4159 CTH A in the Town of Baraboo to connect to the City's watermain on CTA A. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Review and Approval monthly Billing Adjustments/Credits for Sewer and Water Customers for May 2016 – It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to approve the monthly billing adjustments/credits for Sewer and Water Customers for May. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- a. Utility Superintendent's Report – Peterson was not present, due to an emergency dig, where a vehicle hit a fire hydrant on Ash Street. Pinion said that Trenchless Technology project on Water Street went very well, and it was finished one week ahead of the Circus World Museum's summer opening. The Department is now on its valve exercising and flushing program at this time. He said that the department has started their 10-hour days earlier in the month, which is going very well. The department has a summer intern that will be sharing time between the water utility and sewer utility doing some of the small tasks; he graduated from high school last week and will be majoring in natural resources at UW-Stevens Point. He said that the department is working toward the 4th Street Water Main Project that was awarded to A-1 Construction at the last Council meeting and that won't begin until the end of July, following the Circus Parade. Wedekind asked start times for other street projects. Pinion said that A-1 is moving in to start those projects on June 13th, starting on Barker. Koss went to retrieve schedule. Pinion said that a little bit of grinding is being done and a company is doing some sidewalk raising, and the sidewalk maintenance program is also starting. He said that the Washington and 3rd Street project will begin immediately following the fair. He said that this is week number four on the railroad project in the Industrial Park and is going well.
- b. Street Superintendent's Report – Koss said that the last truck that needs major improvements is Truck 8, 1996 Ford 8000. He said the chassis is in excellent shape, the box that is being looked at is the same type that was on it, which was 16 years old and is the one that discharges salt in front of the rear wheels. He said that he would like to keep one truck that is setup this way, which is called an all-purpose box. He said that the only difference with this box is instead of an auger it is just a belt. He said that he received two quotes, one from Universal and one from Monroe. The Universal quote was \$56,000, and Monroe was \$38,000, the difference in price being the Monroe box the City can utilize all the same hydraulics, which is the old cable type that functions very well. The Universal had the electrical hydraulic, the newer type, but more problems. Koss suggested going with Monroe, saying he talked to the people that are currently operating this type of box and they love it, it is stainless steel and should definitely last the lifetime of the truck. He said that the money will be coming out of the Capital Equipment Fund. He went to say that they will be starting basins on 8th; it will be milled probably in August. Wedekind asked when the project on 8th is going to be done, Pinion said that he has to finish up the bid in the next couple weeks and in talking with the asphalt contractors it would fit their schedules best in August.
- c. Police Chief's Report – Schauf said the department is getting into the busy season with parades, festivals, and the fair. He said that the Community Dinner that was held two weekends ago without a hitch, problem, or concern. He went on to say that the department is gearing up for the homicide trial, four different suspects that will be going to trial at some point and they have a lot of work to do on that. He then said that the department is trying to get rid of property, they donated 15 bikes to St. Vincent de Paul, 15 to People Helping People, and 15 to Habitat For Humanity.
- d. Fire Chief's Report – Chief Stieve was not present.

ADJOURNMENT – Kolb moved, Plautz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Wedekind, Chairman