

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting – September 24, 2018

Members Present: Phil Wedekind and Mike Plautz, and Tom Kolb. **Others Present:** Ed Geick, Chief Schauf, Chief Stieve, Attorney Truman, Tom Pinion, Wade Peterson, Tony Gilman, Daniel Zech, Buck Sweeney, Jim Smith, Nancy Mistele, Kathy Hill, Carol Berendes, and Ben Bromley.

Call to Order - Committee Chairman Phil Wedekind called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. at the City Hall Committee Room, 101 South Blvd., Baraboo, Wisconsin. Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted. It was moved by Kolb, seconded by Pinion to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously. It was moved by Pinion, seconded by Kolb to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2018 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- a. Citizen request for special signage to accentuate the posted speed limit on Walnut Street. – Engineer Pinion presented Kathy Hill who resides at 846 Walnut St. and Carol Berendes of 842 Walnut St. with their concerns regarding the speed limit on Walnut St. Kathy stated that she took some photos and she didn't know if they would be helpful or not. The problem she indicated is that she is one owner of three properties with blind driveways. The flashing sign which alerted drivers to slow down has been gone in excess of 5 years and doesn't know why it was taken down. Kathy added that the increase in traffic flow has been problematic along with semis and no one seems to abide by the 25mph. The 25mph sign is at top of the hill, sits where the flashing sign used to be and sign is obscured by trees, etc. There is a police presence sometimes because of Pierce Park and that is helpful. Property across from the Hill's residence was sold and developer has the potential of building 13 additional lots which can be residential. This would cause more of a traffic hazard for them. At one time there must have been some concern, otherwise the flashing sign would never have been put up. Sign was hit, and just not put back up. Chief Schauf added that most communities are going away from these type of signs. One option is a Spinner, relatively low cost, highly reflective, spins in the wind and draws your attention to it. Technically a Caution Light is inappropriate at that location. According to Federal Guidelines we should not have a light at that location. Blind driveway signs are not recognized. Many people who put them in the right-of-way and someone hits it, property owner would be liable. Some additional enforcement is needed.
- b. Consider revising the Official Traffic Map to restrict parking on west side of Draper Street from southern most access to the northern most access to the Jack Young Middle School – Engineer Pinion presented the request that the Police Department received from the Administrative staff at the Middle School in an effort to curb bad habits from starting this year. Some signs were placed in the locations that people drop students off and it conflicts with bus loading from the lower parking lot of the Middle School all the way down to 8th Avenue. School District wants this as does the Police Dept. it is the right way to restrict traffic and it is consistent through the Middle and High School areas. Kolb added that he drops grandchildren off, he asked where he should drop them off. Loading and unloading only areas, however, signage needs to read differently. Upper parking lot at Middle School drivers are permitted to pull in to unload and pick up students, but drivers are not permitted to park for 20 plus minutes in this area. Chief Schauf said the answer is consistency in enforcing parking issues in this area. After a lengthy discussion, Kolb moved, Wedekind seconded to table this discussion until Chief Schauf discusses these issues with the principal of the Middle School. Motion carried unanimously. Plautz moved, motion seconded by Wedekind to revisit this item and discuss further. Motion carried unanimously.

Atty. Truman asked Chief Schauf what was the information he would like to share. Chief Schauf stated the middle school's principal intention was that the restriction is for loading/unloading only, not for parking. We would need to come up with appropriate verbiage to address this. Kolb moved, Wedekind seconded to recommend to Council to approve amending the parking restrictions along this area. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Discuss 2019 Budget and identify prospective capital projects and/or purchases – Engineer Pinion asked the committee if they had any projects they would like incorporated into the budget. This is an open dialogue coming off the Goal Setting Sessions that were conducted earlier this summer. There was some discussion of sidewalks. Kolb added that a section of sidewalk is missing on west side of Camp St. from 5th St. south to alley. Pinion said we can add it in, but cannot guarantee it will be included as last year we were short on sidewalk funds. Kolb also added road repair is needed from Mound St. to Remington to Elizabeth is horrible. Kolb asked if we could address intersections that are terrible around town. Some years ago the City spent a lot of money on overlay, doesn't hold, it was a 5 year band aid. Kolb stated that when we are doing sidewalks we wanted homeowners to be notified well in advance and start some financial planning. Blum is usually the lowest bidder, notifications can be mailed out in January, so residents can prepare financing in advance. Wedekind asked if some people abuse the financing over the years and how is that impacting funds. Pinion added that streets that were bid, will be paved this year. Discussion on finishing river walk, Mike Hardy is addressing this.

Chief Schauf added purchase of 2018 squad vehicle. Cars are being replaced with SUV's. Other Police budget purchase is Zuercher a record management software program, county also has this. We will be looking at replacing our canine who is 9 years old, we have money in the fund balance for this purchase. Canine is proven to be a very valuable asset to the PD. Also, Ruth Browning has decided to retire from the police department and will be taking another city position.

- d. Review and approval of monthly Billing Adjustments/Credits for Sewer and Water Customers for August 2018. – Kolb motioned, seconded by Wedekind to approve the monthly billing adjustments/credits for Sewer and Water Customers for August 2018. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Review and recommendation to the common council to allow property owners with a dangerous tree shared on their properties the option of deferring payment to the city for the city's removal of the tree – Ed Geick stated that this has been an ongoing problem. Tree will be taken down and contracted out for approximately \$27,000. Bids were taken out for this job. This is a unique situation. Plautz motioned, seconded by Kolb to recommend to common council to allow property owners with a dangerous tree shared on their properties the option of deferring payment to the City for the City's removal of the tree. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- a. Utility Superintendent's Report – Peterson noted report on biosolids, sewer rate study, water and sewer budget and items being looked at. Will present budget to city staff.
- b. Street Superintendent's Report – Gilman noted brush clean up, maintenance, old shop repair, patching of streets, flood cleanup, sandbags which absorbed a lot of time. Assisted Sauk County Highway Dept. with flood work. Construction of shed will begin the last month of October. Lengthy discussion on heavy machinery, repairs, replacements, expenses.
- c. Police Chief's Report – Schauf noted two new officers have started and will be in training for next 12 weeks. Worked with flooding issues. Worked with County on a couple of search warrants.
- d. Fire Chief's Report – Chief Stieve noted that \$50,000 is in capital budget that would come from the replacement fund. Flood dollar estimates just under \$7,300 for the riverwalk and these expenses have been submitted to the county for reimbursement.
- e. Correspondence regarding Parkside and Waldo speed limit

ADJOURNMENT – moved by Kolb, seconded by Plautz to adjourn at 2: 13 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Wedekind, Chairman