

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MINUTES
OF APRIL 14, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chairman Feirer at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall Plaza.

PRESENT: Mike Feirer, Tom Buttke, Gary Cummings, Gordon Earll and Ed Wagner

EXCUSED: None

ALSO PRESENT: Alderperson Smith; City Administrator Barg; Director of Public Works Knoeck; City Engineer Turchi; Assistant City Engineer Cassidy; Cemetery Coordinator Baltus; Bill Penker; Lavonne Lindner; Liz Welter, Marshfield News Herald; and others.

PW14-56 Motion by Cummings, second by Earll to recommend approval of the minutes of the March 31, 2014 Board of Public Works meeting.

Motion Carried

Citizen Comments:

- Bill Penker, 600 South Sycamore Avenue, He reviewed the audio and visual from the last meeting and can't see why somebody wants to close the Maple Avenue crossing. If you go back to the recent newspaper article, there is a key quotation from the State Railroad Commissioner stating that we have an unsafe crossing here. He asked why is it unsafe and when did it become unsafe. We have not been told anything like that and he feels that the Railroad Commissioner owes the public that might be impacted a clear explanation as to why. Was this a design problem that after 10 years suddenly became apparent? Nobody knows. It is also noted in the article that all the recent crashes have been due to driver error. This is not a good reason to close a major intersection. The article also states that the Railroad Commission said there have been too many near misses. What is a near miss, how many were there and when did they occur? If Maple is closed and traffic switches to Vine and then you have the same occurrences at Vine are they going to close Vine Street? Or if it happens at Chestnut or Central will they be closed? It doesn't make sense. There are no firm answers and too many what-ifs. You are between a rock and a hard place on this one. There must be some type of intermediate answer. The public needs to know what the data is. He would like to see the Board get some type of negotiated settlement in part to allow data collection before a temporary closure. He also asked if a modified quiet zone could be considered. He feels decision making on too little information is not good.
- City Engineer Turchi stated that the April 22, 2014 Common Council meeting will include a presentation on storm water and will include a drawing for a free rain barrel from those present and signed up.
- Lavonne Lindner, 622 North Plum Avenue, said that people have come up to her recently and a person named Michelle was on main street and Veterans Parkway and she had to back up and turn diagonal to get out of where she was and another person told her that they almost had one too so there are times when it's not known what is happening.

Motion PW14-53 was postponed from the previous meeting.

PW14-53 Motion by Wagner, second by Earll to recommend implementation of a temporary closure of Maple Avenue from Depot Street to Veterans Parkway effective May 1, 2014 for a minimum length of two months.

Knoeck presented results of his discussions with area businesses that would be impacted by the closure and reported that CN is planning to do some crossing maintenance at Central Avenue this spring which would affect scheduling of a temporary closure, should it be approved.

PW14-57 Motion by Wagner, second by Cummings to recommend amending Motion PW14-53 to close Maple Avenue on a date to be determined by the Director of Public Works based on the timing of planned improvements to the Central Avenue railroad crossing.

Cummings, Earll & Buttke voted ‘No’ Motion Failed

Vote on original motion PW14-53

Cummings, Earll & Buttke voted ‘No’ Motion Failed

PW14-58 Motion by Wagner, second by Earll to recommend approval to pursue the renewal of the Cemetery Maintenance Contracts with both Catholic and Lutheran cemeteries.

Motion Carried

PW14-59 Motion by Buttke, second by Earll to recommend approval of revisions to Chapter 25 of the Municipal Code – Construction Site Erosion Control – as presented and request an ordinance be drafted for Common Council consideration.

Motion Carried

PW14-60 Motion by Buttke, second by Earll to recommend that a construction manager be hired for the Library & Community Center project and that a selection committee be established to develop a Request for Proposals and undertake the selection process.

Wagner voted ‘No’ Motion Carried

PW14-61 Motion by Buttke, second by Earll to recommend “No Parking When the Band Shell is in Use” be posted on the south side of Arnold Street from Chestnut Avenue to 50 feet west of the west line of Walnut Avenue and that upon approval the Administrative Code of Traffic and Parking Regulations be amended accordingly.

Motion Carried

PW14-62 Motion by Cummings, second by Earll to adjourn to closed session at 6:48 PM pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

- Purchase of right-of-way for Hume Avenue Street Opening

Roll call vote, all ‘Ayes’ Motion Carried

Present in Closed Session: Aldermen Feirer, Cummings, Wagner, Buttke, Earll & Smith; City Administrator Barg; Director of Public Works Knoeck; City Engineer Turchi.

PW14-63 Motion by Cummings, second by Buttke to reconvene in open session at 6:56 PM.

Roll call vote, all ‘Ayes’ Motion Carried

There was no action taken in open session on the closed session item.

Recommended items for future agendas - None

Motion by Buttke, second by Wagner that the meeting be adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Motion Carried