



Public Works Committee Meeting
February 12, 2019
6:00 p.m.
Cravath Lakefront Room
Municipal Building-2nd Floor
312 W Whitewater St
Whitewater, WI 53190

MINUTES

1. **Call to order and roll call**

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Allen. The meeting was held in the Cravath Lakefront Room.

Present: Jim Allen, Carol McCormick

Absent: Jimmy Schulgit

Others: Cameron Clapper

2. **Approval of minutes from January 8, 2019**

A motion was made by McCormick to approve the minutes from January 8, 2019, and seconded by Allen.

Aye: All via Voice vote (2)

Nay: None

3. **Hearing of Citizen Comments**

No citizens appeared to speak at this time.

4. **Old Business**

No old business at this time.

5. **New Business**

a. Discussion and Possible Action on moving forward with the lakes drawdown

Marquardt stated the timeline to start the lakes drawdown is after the 4th of July festivities. The report looked at doing one inch per day. After talking with the DNR, it looks like we could go up as much as six inches per day. It is really their recommendation as to the final draw down rate that will be used. We have a permit that needs to get in and information that needs to go along with that permit. Therefore, we are looking for approval from the Public Works Committee, the Park Committee and then Council in March to proceed with the draw down that would then happen in the fall of 2019. This process would continue through 2020 with the refill starting in the spring of 2021. In addition to the refill, there would be a controlled burn in the spring of 2021, and some fish habitation improvements in the spring of 2021 and restocking of fish in the fall of 2021. The restocking would more than likely happen in the spring of 2022, after the lake has been reestablished. As part of the draw down there has been talk about doing extra work with dredging. As we have heard at the public information meetings, it seems like the people that have spoken are behind the dredging and really want the City to go pretty much all in with the project. We are looking for some kind of approval from Council that we are going to move forward with the draw down and that we are seriously going to look at the dredging through the budget cycle as a potential project for next year. Allen agreed, we need to get a consensus from the Council because the

citizens don't want us to draw down the lakes if we aren't going to dredge. Clapper stated they have talked about it at the project meetings last week. Nobody wants to go through the draw down without the dredging, and we know the dredging is going to be expensive. Would it be more appropriate to say yes to all of it now or say yes to the draw down with the intent we are going to dredge as well and come back in the summer when we have the next level of permits done. Allen thinks we at least need to get some kind of consensus because it's going to be a big budget item. Clapper stated by just doing the channels there is no hope of making a huge impact and that estimate was \$1.2 million from the engineering people a while back. Cameron had conversations with Larry about hauling the sediment taken out of the lake. He thinks that maybe Kowalski and Walton would help with labor and/or trucks. Marquardt said we would have to look at the bidding regulations as to what we can and can't do. McCormick asked if the DNR was going to monitor the draw down weekly or how it was going to work. Marquardt thought we would probably have to submit weekly reports to the DNR; however, he is not sure yet. The City will be controlling the lowering of the water. McCormick stated the residents downstream would definitely be monitoring it as well. Clapper said we could go back and look at the records of when we did changes to the bridges because there was a draw down the season before that happened as well. Allen said that six inches would have to be monitored because sediment would be going downstream. Marquardt stated that was part of the permit process. We have to let the DNR know how we are going to manage this process. McCormick thought the DNR restocks the lake for free. Marquardt stated they do not restock pan fish. They did mention a few species on their list they would restock. Marquardt stated, we are looking for a motion to move forward, if you want to, with a strong recommendation the dredging would be strongly considered. McCormick moved and seconded by Allen.

Aye: All via Voice vote (2)

Nay: None

b. Discussion and Possible Action on the approval of the TPP for Clay Street

This is the Transportation Project Platt for Clay St. It shows the temporary limited easements that need to be acquired by the City. We need to have it recorded which means we need Council approval. Allen moved for approval and seconded by McCormick.

Aye: All via Voice vote (2)

Nay: None

c. Discussion and Possible Action approving changes to Whitewater Municipal Code, Chapters 16.04, 16.08, 16.12, and 16.14

These changes deal with waterworks and sewer utility rules and regulations. This has not been updated since it was brought in to its current form, which is unknown. We went through these documents and took out anything that wasn't relevant now and brought the language up to code with the DNR and PSC. There were no changes regarding what the utility is charging. It only refers to the rates as set by Council in the budget or set forth by the PSC, if it is water related. McCormick moved to approve and seconded by Allen.

Aye: All via Voice vote (2)

Nay: None

d. Discussion regarding snow removal in the Downtown area

Allen asked that this item be put on the agenda. He thinks our staff does an excellent job. However, the row of snow in the middle on main street is usually too far to the south. For example, everyone parked there today is parked parallel. They didn't even attempt to park the other way because there is no room to get through. Allen is asking for the snow to be piled a little further north because there is angled parking on the south. Clapper said he was talking about this at Rotary today with the same thing on Center Street. The post office has the angled parking as well, except for when we have a snow event because then it is parallel parking. Marquardt will talk with the superintendent at the Streets Department about the concern.

e. Discussion regarding the intersection of Janesville Street and Franklin Street

Mr. Gray asked if this could be put on the agenda for review of accidents at that intersection. Marquardt had the police department compile a list of accidents in the last five years. Allen introduced Kenneth Gray from 451 W. Center St. Mr. Gray has lived at that location for many years on the southeast corner of the intersection of Franklin and Center St. However, at the rear of his property, if you were coming up Janesville St. you would basically end up in his backyard. In his opinion, there has been a lot of accidents by his property that have ended up on his property and done damage. While out shoveling, he was struck by a vehicle going too fast for conditions, which resulted in knee surgery after a ride to the hospital in an ambulance. The worst accident only happened a week and one-half ago. A man driving a large, diesel powered pickup truck missed the curve and ended on Mr. Gray's property. He mowed down 40 ft. of bushes, struck and demolished his car and pushed in his porch. He was lucky, as it could have been a lot worse. The driver involved in the accident backed up and struck his pickup truck and another bush on the south side of the property before driving away. Mr. Gray is looking to discuss some possible solutions. One would be to put up a stop sign on Janesville St. The other idea would be to have an island installed like at Main St. and Milwaukee St. by the railroad tracks. There is an island there to divide the two lanes. If there was an island you would do away with traffic going south on Franklin, unless they were making a right hand turn from Janesville St. The vehicles cut the corner so they can keep their speed up. They end up wearing away the double yellow line and therefore, people don't know that it is an intersection where you have to yield the right of way. He feels it's a very confusing intersection. He also commented on the amount of truck traffic going through that area. In his opinion, he feels it is a very dangerous intersection. Marquardt stated the accident reports from 2014 – 2019 were attached. The first accident was a person traveling south on Franklin who did not yield to a car heading north on Janesville. The next accident in August was a motorcycle heading south and lost control going around the curve. The next one in October was a hit and run at 2:11 a.m. This one was heading south on Franklin and actually crossed the intersection and hit parked cars on Franklin St. One in 2016, was someone who was heading south on Franklin and was stopped to continue south on Franklin, yielding traffic, and someone rear-ended the stopped car. The one in 2017, happened on icy roads as the southbound car was going around the curve and lost control and ran in to a pole. One in 2018, the southbound vehicle on Franklin did not yield the right of way to the northbound vehicle on Janesville. The 2019, accident was the most current which Mr. Gray informed us about which happened at 1:42 a.m. Marquardt stated there is a manual on uniform traffic control devices that give situations where stop signs are warranted and speed is typically not a reason to warrant a stop sign. Stop signs, in the eye of the book, is to stop traffic and allow side traffic an opportunity to enter the road when there is too much volume on the main road. However, there is also guidelines to look at for different types of intersections that may warrant a stop sign due to safety. Marquardt stated he could look at the uniform traffic control book, see what that says, and come back with a recommendation. For the island idea, he may have Strand draw something up to see if there would be enough room to do something. Allen suggested we look in to it and see if there is something we can do. It will be put on a future agenda.

6. **Future Agenda Items** – None at this time.

7. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. Motion made by McCormick and so moved by Allen.

Aye: All via Voice vote (2)

Nay: None

It is possible that members of, and possibly a quorum of members of, other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information over which they may have decision-making responsibility; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

Anyone requiring special arrangements is asked to call the

**Office of the City Manager / City Clerk
at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.**