



Public Works Committee Meeting  
May 14, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
Cravath Lakefront Room  
Municipal Building-2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
312 W Whitewater St  
Whitewater, WI 53190

## MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order by Marquardt at 6 p.m. The meeting was held in the Cravath Lakefront Room at the Municipal Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Present: Jim Allen, Carol McCormick

Absent: Jimmy Schulgit

Others: Brad Marquardt, Cameron Clapper

### 2. **Election of Chairperson/Vice Chairperson**

McCormick nominated Allen as Chairperson and he accepted. Allen nominated McCormick as Vice Chairperson and she accepted.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

### 3. **Approval of minutes from April 9, 2019**

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2019, meeting was made by McCormick and seconded by Allen.

### 4. **Hearing of Citizen Comments**

Kenneth Gray from W. Center St. spoke regarding the Janesville and Franklin intersection. His concern is still the truck route down Franklin St. He thinks it's a short cut through the City. It should be run down Whitewater St. Marquardt stated it would be put on a future agenda.

### 5. **Old Business**

There is no old business at this time.

### 6. **New Business**

#### **a. Discussion and Possible Action on changes to the Janesville Street/Franklin Street intersection.**

Strand did a traffic report outlining some possible solutions. They also did a crash rate analysis to start with. According to their calculations there is a rate of 1.1 crash per million vehicles that go through this intersection. Typically, a rate of over 1.5 per million indicates an intersection should be considered for improvements. A crash rate of 1.0 is considered elevated and warrant improvements. Strand did look at it and came up with a couple of recommendations or options. One option is to widen the curb to the west including moving the sidewalk to the west to provide a 16 ft. lane with a six-foot island. This would require real estate acquisition. Widening the curb to the east would require the same. Meaning the curb

would have to be extended east and require the acquisition of real estate. This is a very permanent solution and would not allow people to head south on Franklin St.

Option 2 would put in temporary delineators, which are plastic strips that would be glued to the centerline. This would not be a permanent solution, as they would need maintenance over time. This would probably not decrease any speed issues. However, if you put in the six foot median that would create a barrier and creates an illusion of a tighter area and it typically makes people slow down. That would be one benefit of putting in a median.

Option 3 would make Franklin St. a one-way going north only.

Other suggestions were additional signage to be implemented no matter what. That could consist of a curve sign, arrows going around the curve to better delineate there is a curve. They did look at putting up an active speed sign, which flashes the speed as you drive by. They also said you could “T” that intersection and make it more of a consistent intersection that we have in the City. However, they didn’t go into much more detail regarding this idea. They did mention this wouldn’t do anything for speed on Janesville St. but signage could still be put up.

Aubrey Mustapha from 1253 Blooming Field Dr. asked if it would logistically make sense to do the one-way because of plowing. She wondered if plowing has issues with an island? Marquardt stated, no. He has not heard of any plowing issues with the island downtown. Liz Winn from 1305 Blooming Field Dr. asked what precipitated the study. Marquardt explained the recent discussion with Kenneth Gray and the accidents in that area and other drivers not obeying the signs for speed, etc. Brienne Brown of 156 N. Fremont St. stated that in CO they have the same situation with wide, curvy intersections. The way they fixed it is with bump outs. They also put big, attractive boulders in the way on the sides of the driveways, etc. where people have a tendency to slide on the ice or bushes. These are all over this town because it’s an old town. It looks like part of the landscape and is not as expensive. Marquardt stated we prefer not to have obstacles in the right of way. It would be different if a private property owner wanted to do this on his or her own property. McCormick asked if the delineators could be done this year. Marquardt will have to check and see how many would be needed and the cost within this year’s budget. Allen asked about phosphoric paint. Marquardt said he could repaint the centerline. Allen said when trucks are cutting that corner the paint fades away. McCormick asked if we need any special ordinance change if we change a street. Marquardt stated if it would change to a one-way it would go through Council for approval. McCormick commented a combination of both might work. Marquardt stated we could put up the delineators to prevent left turns and put a sign as well indicating no left turn to make it more obvious. We could turn Franklin into a one-way for the one block. It was asked if we should hold any kind of public information meeting. Allen commented we should have a meeting; however, we are not slowing traffic down going northbound and that’s what we are trying to do. Marquardt stated, yes, that’s one of the things. Brienne Brown brought up the R2 overlay that was just approved on Franklin, where they are trying to get them to not go out of the driveway on Janesville. That might be an issue as well. Clapper stated if you are going to go through with the delineators and the one-way this year, it would be a good idea to have a public informational meeting to talk about those items. Marquardt stated he will hold a public information meeting and then bring that discussion to Council for approval to change to a one-way street.

**b. Discussion and Possible Action prohibiting the use of compression brakes within the City limits.**

Marquardt stated this is tied to the no truck route. He said he could not find anything in the ordinance that prohibits the use of compression brakes. He has a phone call set-up with McDonell to discuss further. If this were something that is adopted, signage would have to be put up at all entrances of the City. McCormick asked if there is a violation cost. Marquardt said this would be discussed with McDonell regarding creating an ordinance. He asked for direction if this is something that eventually should be brought to Council. Members of the public works committee directed him to follow up regarding an ordinance.

**c. Discussion and Possible Action on the location of the wet detention pond in the Park Crest Subdivision in relation to the park playground.**

Marquardt stated that Stage 4 (phase A) of the Park Crest Subdivision started in 2018. As part of that, the development was required to meet current sediment removal standards set by the DNR and by the City. With new DNR regulation, the development had to come up with a way to remove additional suspended solids. Therefore, they looked at turning the existing dry pond into a wet pond. After working with the DNR and our consultant a smaller wet pond was allowed. The developer located it where it is because of the existing storm sewer outfall, which made sense, and the overflow goes into the existing dry pond and outfalls to the north. The wet detention pond is designed to always have about 5 ft. of water in it, which is the requirement of a wet detention pond to get the time for the sediment to drop out per the DNR guideline. The City did receive calls back in 2018 regarding the pond asking if it was permanent. In addition, they did receive a call this spring from a resident in that subdivision saying that they did see a child who fell through the ice later in the springtime. That child was able to get out safely. Based on this feedback, it was asked to be brought up again for discussion. Allen commented these detention ponds are everywhere, close to residences. Marquardt stated detention ponds are very common and they are called best practice management to remove the suspended solids that City and developers are required to do by law. Allen asked what other communities do to prevent children from being injured. Marquardt stated mostly education from what he has heard. Communities will not try to enclose them or prohibit them by any means because children are more adapt at crawling over a fence than what a parent would be. It would cause a hindrance to any type of rescue. The same thing goes for enclosing it with shrubs, etc.

Allen opened it up to resident questions and possible solutions. Aubrey spoke from that subdivision. She is a certified storm water inspector and construction site inspector. She thought this pond was going to capture erosion from the hill. However, it sounds like we are trying to capture TSS from the road. Marquardt stated we are trying to capture it from the road and the existing subdivision. She had some suggestions. The perimeter control is lacking. The method used on the right hand side is extremely deep. The method used on the left side should be checked to make sure it does meet the standards. In her opinion, the two methods installed may not meet the methods and standards the DNR has implemented. In addition, she suggested talking with the construction site inspector for the City and look at the flow pattern. She would like the City to enforce the permit on the developer and encourage them to use their safety budget and their erosion control budget and beef it up and make it safe. They understand it has to be there, let's just make it better.

Greg Majkrzak, 1284 Tower Hill Pass, stated his main concern is safety. It gets a lot of kid traffic. He thinks a fence would deter kids; however, older kids may know how to swim, as young kids do not yet. He did feel comfortable sitting on his deck and watching his kids at the playground and now he can't get there fast enough. He thinks the water in some areas of the pond is nine to 10 ft. deep.

Mike Lema, 1310 Tower Hill Pass, understands the need for drainage. Visitors to his house say two things. That's a mosquito pit and some kid is going to drown in there. Throughout the winter, he has chased multiple kids off the ice. He is just waiting for some kid to go through and not get out. One more thing, as far as the pictures, they don't do it justice. The whole place slopes toward the pond, so it's not going to drain out and the hill coming down is quite steep. Whether or not kids are intentionally crashing their bikes into the water or not, there are going to be kids that can't make that turn. That is another concern if we put up a fence. Somebody is going to hit the fence and be injured very badly.

Brian O'Neill, 1315 Blooming Field Dr., asked if it actually needs to be there. He said having a detention pond directly 15 ft. away from a park is not a smart design. He wondered about the water flow and asked if this pond could be moved.

Liz Winn, 1305 Blooming Field Dr., commented she called right away last fall. When it was first filling up she doesn't know if anyone else can say that it hasn't gotten that low since, but it is usually filled to the top, all the time. She encouraged everyone to drive out there, walk out there, and look at it. She looks

at it and has to detach from it. It's a bit shameful for a community. This is such an obvious, common sense something bad is going to happen. She doesn't care what the code says; someone in Madison wrote a code. The reality is that we are a small community. We are encouraging your families to move here, we made a nice neighborhood; we encourage people to stay in Whitewater, move to Whitewater and build in Whitewater. Somewhere in the original design, ever 10-15 years back, they decided the park had to be there. Then, in the scheme of things someone should have thought you can't have a detention pond 15 ft. from a playground. You have community members here begging you that something bad is going to happen.

Dave Vosburgh, 1281 Blooming Field Dr., commented he has a six year old. His question was if this was truly needed. This is a large subdivision and how much has been added to the area that now all of a sudden an extra two blocks of road has pushed us over the limit that we need a pond. Is there that much more dirt, TSS coming in and being added to that area that it won't settle out in the already allotted space they had there previously. He commented he has lived there nearly a decade and has never once seen that area even wet before that retention pond went in. There was never ever any standing water in that area. So, to say by adding two blocks of City streets we are running into a problem now. Do we need two big areas that are five to 10 ft. deep that are attractive nuisances to children because it's water, frozen over or something fun to splash in. The hazards are more of a concern to him than if a little bit of dirt would potentially get out the other end.

Clapper stated he wanted to reference some of the comments noted about water being there and not seeing it before. It is meant to be wet there now. It is a basin that is expected to be wet and dug down deeper than the land was before. The comments about never seeing water before is because it was a dry basin and it's a wet basin now. The design change came when the addition was commenced. Part of that is because rules changed within the State. When we went to construct this addition to the subdivision, we were confronted with these rules when they were different than they were when the original dry basin was put in. Someone asked about a variance or grandfather. Marquardt stated the developer and consultant looked into it and they said the whole area needed to be a wet pond. They were able to minimize it to that area. They could have gotten rid of it all together and it would have saved the developer money. It had to go in to meet those standards. The developer would have been the first one to get rid of it and save the money.

A resident asked what the benefit of a wet pond is over a dry basin. Marquardt stated the intention of a wet pond is to treat the smaller rain events, which carry the majority of the small sediment that the State and Federal Government is trying to get out of the stormwater to prevent it from getting to the lakes. The water comes in and has the ability for the fine sediments to settle out in the pond and then the water discharges. In a dry pond the water doesn't have time to let fine sediments settle down. It's all mixed into the stormwater so it continues across the dry basin and off site. That is the difference based on scientific knowledge and all of the tests they have done over time to determine the wet detention ponds are required vs. the dry detention ponds. Everyone in the State must follow this standard.

McCormick asked if we could have an engineer look at it to see if the wet area could be relocated. Marquardt said he could ask the consultant. Another suggestion from an audience member was if the sidewalk could be moved and/or moving the playground. Moving the playground may be a cheaper solution than the wet pond.

A member of the audience spoke from Blooming Field, she would really like to see the area moved as she doesn't believe in putting up a fence.

Allen asked Clapper how we want to proceed. Clapper stated to keep it with this committee and come back with some proposals. Allen stated Marquardt will come back to the June or July Public Works Committee with more information.

**d. Discussion and Possible Action on sanitary sewer rate increase.**

Hatton commented that one of the things budgeted for in 2019 was to complete a utility rate study for water, wastewater and stormwater. Ehlers was commissioned to complete that study. Ehlers stated they saw some concerns as it relates to the utilities. The sewer side of it is unregulated and does not have the PSC oversight. The ability to raise rates is granted by the authority in the ordinance by the City Council. The waterside is regulated by the PSC. The City is restricted as to how it can increase rates. There are two ways to raise rates. The first way is simplified and the second is a full case. Simplified means that we are not up to a certain benchmark rate of return (what you are earning on your investment). Since we are not up to that benchmark, we could go for a quick and easy 3% rate increase. PSC grants that as you meet certain criteria. Secondly, at the full rate case you have to go through a lengthy application. You supply data for a test year and then your rates are based on the data supplied. The last water rate increase for water was 2011. The last rate increase for wastewater was 2015. The process they look at when doing a rate study is that there are three steps. You need to develop a revenue requirement to make sure how much revenue we need, cost of service, and the third one is rate of return. PSC will benchmark you to a certain level. Based on the study it was determined that the wastewater rates needed to increase by 17.6%. Much of this is needed because of the plant upgrade (permit obligations by the State) that is now complete. This study does cover a long-range financial plan for the sewer plant. However, a rate study is suggested every three to five years.

Dave Stone, 303 Ann St. commented that before the City adds anything to the CIP next year, we need to look at the projected population trends for Whitewater.

Ehlers now reviewed the waterside of it. He reiterated that we have less control on the actual percentage increase because we are going to be taken to the benchmark under a full rate case. Simplified you are only allowed to do so many for so long before you are required to do another full rate case. You want to make sure we have our debt obligations as well. The Water Department has some significant items in the CIP, so he says this is more forward looking. The water tower is a big-ticket item along with five water main projects with street projects as well. You don't want to wait until the last minute and have a rate shock to the residents. You need to plan for these things. The anticipated rate increase will take about six months to a year to be put in place. Allen commented that this will give us time to get the information out to the public. Clapper also suggested replacing the percentage of increase to an actual dollar amount when informing the public. Brian from Ehlers was invited to attend the Council meeting regarding this agenda item.

Marquardt commented we are looking for action on the sanitary sewer rate increase, which is an actual recommendation to approve the rate increase. McCormick made a recommendation to Council to approve the proposed rate increase for sanitary sewer and seconded by Allen.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

Marquardt recommends for the waterside increase to file the application with the PSC and recommend to the Council to approve the filing of the application to the PCS. McCormick made a motion and second by Allen.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

**e. Discussion and Possible Action on water rate increase.**

This discussion was covered under d.

**f. Discussion and Possible Action approving Strand Task Order for Sanitary Sewer System Smoke Testing.**

Marquardt stated this is for Strand to send smoke down the sanitary sewers and watch for it to come out of downspouts, storm sewer and out of the ground. It helps us detect where there are leaks or improper connections where sump pumps are hooked up to the sanitary, which is not allowed. It provides us with information to develop a schedule for lining sanitary sewers and/or going after those houses that have sump pumps hooked up illegally. All and all it is to eliminate influent infiltration, which when it rains our flows go up at the wastewater treatment plant and then we have clear water we are treating, which costs money. This money would be coming out of the sanitary sewer repair fund and would cover 2019, 2020 and part of 2021 for the final report. Allen made a motion to present this information to Council and seconded by McCormick.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

**g. Discussion and Possible Action approving Wastewater Utility maintenance items for 2019.**

Marquardt presented a list of such items including the CCTV (Closed Caption Television) to send the camera down the lines, cured in place pipe, which is putting a pipe inside an existing pipe to eliminate infiltration and pressure test and seal on larger pipes. These are three different awards we are looking for at this time. The first one would be to Northern Pipe for the CCTV, the second one would be for Terra Engineering for the CIPP and the third one would be to Visu-Sewer for the pressure test and seal. This would then be taken to Council as one item to recommend approval for all three. McCormick moved to recommend contracts to Council and seconded by Allen.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

**h. Discussion and Possible Action approving Wastewater Utility roof repair.**

Marquardt stated this was a project in the CIP this year to repair the roof on the main building. We received three quotes and the lowest bid came from Pioneer Roofing at \$152,794, which is below the \$170,000 we have in the budget for the CIP. Allen moved to recommend to Council to accept the lowest bid to Pioneer Roofing and seconded by McCormick.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

**i. Discussion and Possible Action for award of contracts for Cravath Lakefront Park Amphitheater Structure and Construction.**

Marquardt stated that just before the May Public Works Committee meeting we had a bid opening for the Amphitheater structure itself. We had one bid for \$132,040. We tabled any action on that because we needed that information to be included in the construction contract. We received two construction bids. The low bid was from Gillbank 180,194.20. That bid was over the engineer's estimate. Therefore, we are just over \$312,000. We have \$200,000 in the CIP and \$35,000 in the design account. Therefore, we have \$235,000 and are about \$80,000 short at this time. Part of that was from a bad estimate for installation where we were possibly entertaining the thought of having City crews doing the majority of the work. That did not get reflected when we decided we would not have time to do that. They will look through the budget to see if they can find any other monies. Marquardt also believes that Boettcher is putting something together for a fundraiser. Allen commented that a frustration with him is that they have been asked to move this along without seeing any plans until now. Personally, he doesn't think it's a good amphitheater at all. There is no back drop and no back house. Typically, when they have concerts in the City during the summer, there is a great chance of rain, storms and the same with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Will it only get used six to eight times a year? Marquardt stated it was designed to incorporate sides to it, if needed for rain events so tarps could be hung from it. Allen doesn't see anything to warrant that kind of money. McCormick commented that it was brought up at Park and Recreation - is this the only structure that has been looked at? Are there other companies out there that have different designs? Clapper stated they did look at different structures earlier on. The origin of this is that we have had

improvements made to the current stage over the years, but that stage is inadequate to hold the activities we currently host there. They were looking with the utilitarian perspective at what could work with what we need, based on the existing stage. Marquardt stated we do not have all of the information at this time. He said we are not looking for a motion or a recommendation. This would just be moved to Council next week and hopefully with additional information. It will be at the next Park and Recreation meeting. A member of the audience asked if the Urban Forestry Committee has been notified of the removal of the planter wall and shrubs and do they have anything to say about this? Marquardt will check, but noted there is a removal schedule. He doesn't think they have been involved up to now.

**j. Discussion and Possible Action approving Strand Task Order for Phosphorous Credit for Leaf Management Program.**

Marquardt stated this is a new program the DNR is giving credit for phosphorous reduction. This is something we are lacking on our MS4 permit for compliance. We are doing a lot of what is required. We are collecting bagged leaves on the terrace, as we don't allow residents to rake their leaves into the street; we do street sweeping after the leave collection. This is for Strand to go area by area within the City to look at which area would meet the criteria of the DNR based on trees, the canopy, the percentage of the canopy over the street and then go through the calculations that the DNR has in place to see how much phosphorous credit removal we would get. McCormick moved to approve the proposed task order from Strand and seconded by Allen. Marquardt stated he would have Strand put together an actual task order, which will be submitted to Council.

Aye: All via voice vote (2)

Nay: None

**k. Milwaukee Street Construction Update**

Allen wanted to make sure the business park is receiving the updates we are sending out. Marquardt stated he typically gets an update from the DOT weekly. That information is forwarded to Mickelson. Clapper stated she does have the email list from the meetings we've had. Allen just wants to make sure that information is being forwarded to the appropriate people. Marquardt stated they are behind schedule based on where they said they would be with the sewer and water construction. However, as it has been stated in these meetings, they have until July 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> to be done. It doesn't matter where they are right now with sewer and water as long as they have everything done by that date, meet their requirements and don't get charged. It was mentioned that people are weaving in and out of that area. Marquardt stated the street needs to be kept open for local traffic; however, people are taking that to the extreme. Clapper wondered if a solid closure would have not worked better for this area. Marquardt will check with the DOT and the contractor as well.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

Truck route – Marquardt  
Bring Park Crest back at some time

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Allen made motion to adjourn and seconded by McCormick.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Stoll

*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.**