

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

*September 26, 2011
6:30 p.m.*

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner
Jason Sladky
Allan Schema
Alex Olson

STAFF PRESENT

Val Mellon
Sonja Birr
Greg Minikel
Kevin Glaeser
Randy Junk

OTHERS

Tim Kaiser, 4251 Last Ct.
Mark Zucchi, 918 South 41st St.
Mike Check, Home Bldrs Assoc.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Brey

Approval of the Minutes from 9/12/11

A. Schema made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2011 meeting. A. Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action for the proposed 2012 re-ditching of the existing drainage ditch at the end of Last Court

G. Minikel informed the Committee, that since the last meeting, he had a long telephone call with Tony Butala regarding the Last Court drainage ditch. Mr. Butala will probably not grant the City an easement for the dredging of the drainage ditch unless the City provides a complete plan to re-ditch the entire area, meaning north and south of Last Ct. as well as the existing ditch running east of Last Court. G. Minikel told Mr. Butala that we will need approvals from the DNR and that costs will be major contributing factors as to whether or not we will be able to move forward with any re-ditching projects.

V. Mellon thought we would have received a different response from Mr. Butala. G. Minikel stated that without the easement, the City could only ditch approximately 150 feet east of the existing concrete pavement on Last Ct. (which would be the end of the dedicated, but undeveloped cul-de-sac). The Committee thought if we only re-ditched this short portion it wouldn't be enough and would cause the water to gather in a pool.

Tony Butala would like to have a meeting with City Staff including the City Planner, Dave Less, in order to discuss alternatives and to work out an agreement to re-ditch the entire 450 feet. This project is proposed for construction in 2012. The Engineering Dept. will continue to discuss the easement with Mr. Butala and report back at a future meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding the DPW's snow plowing and snow removal schedule for the 2011-2012 winter

R. Junk was present and distributed to the Committee an outline of the work schedule, crews and fall work agenda. Leaf pickup will start in early October and will continue until either Thanksgiving, the first

significant snowfall or until the leaves are gone. We will utilize up to 18 employees for the leaf pickup. Brush pickup occurs over a 2 week period and we will utilize 10 employees for the brush pickup. The north side brush pickup will be the week of October 10th and the south side will be the week of October 17th.

A third street sweeper (mechanical) will be used to clean up debris from leaves/brush. There is a total of 23 employees for the fall cleanup, 18 for leaves/brush, 3 street sweeper operators and 2 loadal operators.

R. Junk also reviewed the winter snow removal plan/schedule, which will consist of the 27 DPW employees (incl. 2 mechanics & 2 office staff), 6 Parks employees, 3 Cemetery employees, 2 WWTF employees and 1 bridge tender for a total of 39 City employees involved with snow removal operations. We also utilize 6 private graders. The Parks and Cemetery employees will be using equipment that they are familiar with.

K. Glaeser said that he is dedicating 60 percent of his Park Labor force to the main priority of plowing the city streets this winter. He will reserve 4 laborers for the park priority sidewalks near schools, the Senior Center and Rahr West facilities and cabin rentals and the Zoo.

Alex Olson asked if many people use the sand barrels. R. Junk explained the history of the sand barrels and how they typically get used up after an ice storm. A. Olson requested cost estimates for maintaining the sand barrels and what costs savings we would see if they were eliminated.

There was a brief discussion about overtime. R. Junk said it will be difficult to eliminate all overtime, but it will be down from last year.

V. Mellon and R. Junk discussed the beet juice brine/pre-wetting and anti-icing procedures that they have proposed in the past. The City of Beloit is currently using this method and had a payback period of 3 years. The Committee agreed that they should have fought harder to keep in past Budgets.

Alex Olson asked what portion of the total cost is for private hires. V. Mellon said it was approximately 20 percent of the total snow budget with the snow hauling trucks included.

Allan Schema wanted to know if it was a flat rate for the private hires. V. Mellon said a copy of the letter sent to privates with current rates could be provided to the Committee.

V. Mellon informed the Committee about the language in prior labor contracts of the employees being 100 percent available to plow. That language no longer exists.

Discussion and possible action regarding the DPW's procedure for failure to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks

D. Soeldner brought this issue to the Committee because he felt there were too many warning letters being sent by the City and lengthy procedures for snow complaints/removal on City sidewalks. He did not feel that the City needed to take photos of the sidewalks that were not shoveled. Since, the response for brush pickup was more positive than anticipated, it would be a good idea to take the same approach for notifying the public about keeping their sidewalks clear of snow and ice per our City Ordinance. The Committee agreed that they would like to see one public notice annually (H-T-R, Comcast, & City Webpage) prior to the snow season and no longer send out any letters.

V. Mellon stated that if this happens, the Committee needs to stand firmly behind us and not waive any invoice that is issued.

Allan Schema said that the City of Two Rivers and Appleton raised their fines.

The Committee suggested allowing a realistic time period and discussing the time frame and legal opinions with the City Attorney. The issue will be brought back at a future meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding a 1983 Resolution that requires property owners to pay for repairs to the sanitary lateral from the home to the mainline sewer

J. Sladky said after further thought he felt this could be a little more difficult than originally anticipated. We don't want our city crews repairing laterals, especially when we have enough work keeping up with the mains.

D. Soeldner said he would like to review these on a case by case basis.
A. Olson said we should find out how other cities handle this issue.

G. Minikel reminded the Committee that our current Resolution is very clear and doesn't allow for changes and we should check with the City Attorney to make sure we aren't opening up more of a liability issue.
V. Mellon stated that once we start taking responsibility for the laterals it would be difficult to tell anyone "no" and tree roots are a big problem and they don't end at the Right-of-way line.

The Committee recommended checking with the City Attorney and to check with surrounding cities to find out what policies they have in place and report back at a future meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding possible changes to Municipal Code Section 7.280 for special assessments for improvements on alleys

G. Minikel explained that a complaint came through the Mayor's office and V. Mellon read the e-mail to the Committee.

After further discussion, the Committee was in agreement that businesses do not benefit from an alley as much as they do from a street and therefore, the language in our Municipal Code should be changed so that all business properties abutting an alley will receive the same assessment reductions that the residential properties receive under the current code.

Alex Olson made a motion to change the Municipal Code Section 7.280 to grant assessment reductions for business properties abutting alleys in the same manner that residential properties receive reductions. J. Sladky seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action regarding a citizen's complaint on the policy for levying fines under the Street Sweeping Parking Ban Ordinance

D. Soeldner informed the Committee of the complaint that was received regarding the cost increase on parking tickets. It was decided that if there weren't increases, there would be no incentive to pay these tickets. The amount increments are \$15/\$25/\$40. The Committee did not support any changes to the current policy at this time.

Request (11-477) for waiver of snow removal assessment incurred while resident was hospitalized on parcel #220-012-250

Committee unanimously recommended placing on file.

Communication (11-547) from Manitowoc Elks Lodge to hold button drive on October 21 and 22, 2011 to benefit Police Dept canine unit

The Committee unanimously recommended approving the request.

Joint Construction Agreement (11-569) with Manitowoc County for the purpose of joint City/County construction work on portion of CTH B between Waldo Blvd and Albert Dr.

The Committee approved entering into the agreement on a vote of 3 ayes and 1 nay. A. Schema was not in favor.

Communication (11-571) from Mary Bloom asking to set aside invoice for grass cutting

The Committee unanimously denied the request.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.



Valerie Mellon, P.E.
Director of Public Works
and City Engineer