

**STREETS AND SANITATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

*December 10, 2012
7:15 p.m.*

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Soeldner
Jason Sladky
Jim Brey
Tyler Martell

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Minikel
Karen Dorow
Jim Muenzenmeyer

OTHERS

Catrina Tegen, Class Project
Andrea Lohr, Class project
Mike Check
Ald. Scott McMeans

MEMBERS ABSENT

Allan Schema

Approval of the Minutes from 11/12/12

J. Brey made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2012 meeting. T. Martell seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

Discussion and possible action regarding the closure of selected sidewalks abutting City Property during the winter

J. Muenzenmeyer was part of the BPI process for snow removal with the DPW. He was present and explained to the Committee the plan they developed for public sidewalks and their recommendation to allow city staff to assess and possibly eliminate snow removal from certain sidewalks. One is located down by the carferry, others were various pedway crossings throughout the City, which take approximately 16 hours to clear. He said that they are in the discussion mode at this point and any further action will need approval from this Committee.

D. Soeldner asked if this is only a temporary situation which could be re-evaluated if the public expresses displeasure.

J. Muenzenmeyer said that anything that is changed can always be reversed.

J. Brey informed the Committee that he would not support this. We have an Ordinance for residents to clear their sidewalks, how can the City allow sidewalks/pedways to be closed by not removing the snow.

G. Minikel said that we had discussions with an Attorney and he said that there would need to be an Ordinance in place before closure of any sidewalk or pedway during the winter months. In addition, any sidewalk closures would require proper barricading and signage.

J. Sladky asked what the difference is between the City pedways and the sidewalks that are in front of our homes. These are both public sidewalks. He thought it could be the responsibility of the abutting property owners.

J. Muenzenmeyer said we can brainstorm to come up with alternatives.

D. Soeldner said that we need to assess and find out if these sidewalks are even used during the winter months.

S. McMeans added that we could manage costs by not shoveling these pedways and performing other tasks.

J. Brey said that we have prioritized many snow removal issues already.

J. Sladky said the sidewalk/pedway in his neighborhood is used a lot and feared many people would not approve of this approach.

D. Soeldner said we should allow the City Staff to determine which sidewalks/pedways could be eliminated.

J. Muenzenmeyer said that there are steps throughout the City that are not shoveled during the winter and are chained off. He said that once there is a list put together, he would bring the issue back to the Committee for approval.

Discussion and possible action regarding proposed changes to snow removal on City cul-de-sac streets

J. Muenzenmeyer explained to the Committee how they are proposing to change the plowing of the cul-de-sacs, due to the BPI process.

The method that the DPW currently uses to plow snow on cul-de-sacs takes longer to do than an average street. The snow plow operators are very careful not to leave much snow in the driveway area for the residents on the bulb of the cul-de-sacs. They try to plow all of the snow to the grass areas between driveways. The proposed plan from the BPI process would be to only take 3 cuts with the snow plow and push that snow to the grass areas between driveways. Then, the remainder of the cul-de-sac bulb would be plowed like a normal street, which will leave snow in the driveways, similar to all other streets. Staff is concerned that this might generate more constituent calls to their Alderpersons.

G. Minikel wanted to know if the Committee would want the City to send out letters to property owners on Cul-de-sacs. This would generate about 400 letters. (approx. 80 cul-de-sacs & approx. 5 lots per cul-de-sac bulb).

The Committee thought we could get the word out to the residents without a letter being mailed out.

J. Sladky said that he would not be in support of this new plowing procedure, as this will put a lot of snow in the driveway area. G. Minikel said that all other city streets get snow pushed into their driveways, so having snow plowed into driveways on cul-de-sacs would not be any different than all of the other streets in the City.

The Committee discussed this change in plowing. Both J. Brey and J. Sladky said they would not support.

D. Soeldner said that the plowing of the cul-de-sac the first 3 pushes will not be in front of driveways, however, the final plow would leave snow at the end of the driveway as it does on all other city streets. He said that we need to allow for some changes and will need to communicate this with their constituents as they said they would.

J. Sladky questioned what happens when they get done cleaning up the snow ahead of time. J. Muenzenmeyer said that this time savings would allow cleanup to occur sooner and allow the staff to return to their normal duties.

J. Brey questioned if some of the routes could start north of Waldo Blvd.

J. Muenzenmeyer said that the snow routes will need to be revisited as it has been quite a while.

Discussion and possible action regarding parking restrictions during the winter months for snow plowing

J. Muenzenmeyer said the intent of the proposed Ordinance was to eliminate all parking on City streets during winter months. The City of Manitowoc is unusual as we don't have winter parking restrictions in place and surrounding communities do.

The Committee discussed the proposed daily parking ban, which would be in effect December 1st through March 31st from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on all city streets.

S. McMeans asked why we are different from other communities that currently have a winter parking ban in place.

D. Soeldner said that if there is a will there is a way, and we should be able to change the parking on city streets in the winter months. He said that it must be a challenge for the plow drivers to have to maneuver around a parked car in the street.

J. Muenzenmeyer said the cost of the maintenance of the winter parking signs is approximately \$47,000 every 10 years. There would be a one time cost to remove all the signs; however, it would be a City wide parking ban and would save the City money in the end.

S. McMeans asked about having a public meeting or possibly a Referendum to get the public's opinion.

J. Muenzenmeyer said there are other issues that could be addressed within the snow removal operations, one of them is the snow emergency declaration. Currently, the Mayor declares the snow emergency when necessary. We are suggesting that it would be better and make more sense

for one of the following persons to order the snow emergency: Director of Public Infrastructure, Operations Manager or the Police Chief.

G. Minikel stated that it isn't always an easy call to declare a snow emergency based on the storm predictions days in advance. We usually like to wait until the storm has started before declaring snow emergencies.

Discussion and possible action regarding a request from the Kiwanis Club for installation of a sign on Waldo Blvd to the east of N. Rapids Rd.

G. Minikel said that he received a call from Kiwanis and they want to install a sign similar to the Eagles.

There used to be a sign that represented several civic groups that was removed due to deterioration.

This was informational only. When more information is available will bring back to committee.

Discussion and possible action regarding a complaint about the container size for solid waste collection

The complaint that we received was basically in regards to Waste Management picking up solid waste in containers larger than the 45 gallons allowed per City Ordinance. However, Pozorski is only picking up the 45 gallon containers or less and requiring stickers for any additional garbage beyond one container or bag.

G. Minikel said that he met with Jeff Beyer from the County to discuss the complaint. He is recommending that we renew and approve the haulers' licenses for 2013, but that we will begin addressing many issues that have arisen over the past years.

First of all, the existing recycling Ordinance is about 20 years old and needs to be completely reviewed. In addition, the Landfill Contract needs to be renewed by 2014. J. Beyer will be negotiating a new contract with the Waste Management Ridgeview Landfill during 2013.

J. Brey said that many containers sold are larger than the 45 gallon requirement.

G. Minikel stated that it was his understanding that back in the 1990's when the volume based garbage collection and recycling ordinance was approved, the maximum container size was set at 45 gallons, since this was the largest container size that the sanitation worker could reasonably lift into the truck. The risk of injury would like increase if the container size were larger. However, some companies are now using automated lifts, which means the container size is not really a safety issue.

This is informational only at this time and we will bring back in the

future.

Discussion and possible action on sanitation lateral repair reimbursement policy.

G. Minikel said there was no previous motion made to have the City Attorney draft an Ordinance.

J. Sladky asked if there are any provisions that would allow us to go back to the contractor for instances where there was settling due to improper installation.

J. Brey said this discussion has occurred in the past and he will not support if it is not city wide.

D. Soeldner said that there have been cases where the City was at fault and paid for the repairs. This might be best to bring forth on a case by case basis. It will be very difficult to come up with a rule, but could also create issues if all of these complaints were brought forth to the Committee.

J. Brey said that if there is no policy in place, then a claim needs to be filed with the City Clerk's Office and then the Attorney's Office and Finance Committee can address each claim on a case by case basis.

G. Minikel said that there are likely many claims that we don't hear about, they just get repaired and the property owners never calls the City to complain about it. Some are coming forward and others are not.

Discussion and possible action regarding the proposal from the developers (Check, Popp & Bartow) outlining the fees to be paid by them for the City to take over maintenance of the stormwater ponds in their subdivisions.

G. Minikel said he briefly met with Janet Sosnosky, Stormwater Aide, and Assistant City Attorney. They discussed talking with the Title Companies to try to come up with a way for the City to receive the money when the lots are sold. A Deed Restriction was mentioned or possibly collecting an annual fee. Mike Check said that his group has not had a chance to meet yet.

J. Sladky thought the Deed Restriction would be the safe option. This way the buyer is responsible for payment. He isn't interested in working out any additional deals with the developers if they don't like what was decided by the Committee. He is comfortable with what has been determined.

G. Minikel asked if the developers would be responsible for paying for the Deed Restriction. A Resolution needs to be created for all new ponds.

Communications (12-335) from Doneff Companies relative to streetscape

improvements and changes to Jay Street between 8th and 9th Street.

The Committee recommended placing on file.

No further discussion.

Communication (12-417) from Luisier Plumbing relative to sewer repair at 1403 Nagle Avenue

J. Brey made a motion to refer the Communication to the Finance Committee.

J. Sladky seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

The next meeting will be on January 14th, 2013

J. Sladky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. T. Martell seconded the motion.

Greg Minikel, P.E.
Interim Director of Public Infrastructure