

In Attendance

Mayor S. Bierce, Alderman J. Wamser, Committee Members: M. Kreiter, D. Swan, J. Tormey

Also in Attendance

M. Wagner-Director of Public Works, R. Wirtz-Chief Engineer-Utilities, M. Gabbey-Chief Engineer-Streets and Development

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bierce called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Discussion and Action Regarding the Minutes

3.1. Discussion and possible action regarding the 9/12/2023 minutes.

A motion was made and seconded (J. Tormey, J. Wamser) to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion passed: For-5, Against-0

4. Storm Water Management Division

4.1. Discussion and possible action regarding Springdale Estates Drainage Easement Rehabilitation.

Mr. Wirtz provided the Committee with a plan for regrading the drainage swale between Aspenwood Lane to Stonewood Lane. The Committee had previously requested Staff break the project into only those portions that have a problem; from the mid-point to the east and the west end wall from the storm sewer in Aspenwood Lane. The concrete end wall has separated and settled into a hole. Staff plan to raise and re-attach the end wall, then fill the bottom portion of the hole with stone and place rip rap around the side slopes to prevent erosion. Mr. Wirtz stated that this would be the extent of the work on the west end.

From about the mid-point of the drainage swale to the east, Mr. Wirtz stated he had noticed ponding water further to the west than anticipated. The location was by a bunch of stumps. The re-ditching would begin at this point and extend to the east. A couple of storm sewers outfalling to the drainage swale have separated joints at the end section; one at the very east end and another at the 30-inch storm sewer to the west which comes from the north. Places of access to the project are over the storm sewer easement off Ridgewood Lane and the storm sewer easements on either end of the project. Staff are planning to bid the work this March. Staff will perform an additional walk through with Wachtel Tree Science to ensure the trees are correctly located. Mr. Wirtz stated that most of the ditching work has not changed from the previous plan. Staff plan to restore the swale invert with either rip rap or Fleximat, which will hold up better than trying to restore the invert with topsoil and seed. Areas that have grass cover will be restored with grass seed and erosion mat.

Mayor Bierce asked if the disturbance on the west end would be just by the road. Mr. Wirtz stated the disturbance would be from the roadway to the end section, a couple hundred feet. Mr. Wirtz showed Mayor Bierce on the plan sheet the location of the work to be performed. Mayor Bierce stated that everyone from Aspenwood Lane to the storm sewer end-section will have the minor disturbances of equipment driving through their backyard. Mr. Wirtz said that portion of the work shouldn't take more than a day. Mayor Bierce asked if the major work will be from the mid-point to Stonewood Lane, and Mr. Wirtz said yes.

Mayor Bierce asked if Staff could give the residents notice when the walk through with Wachtel Tree Science will take place. Mr. Wirtz said that could be done. Staff plan to have an Engineer Technician along with Wachtel to locate the trees that would be saved with GPS.

Public Comments

Lee Penton, N27W22653 Burningwood Lane. Mr. Penton stated he lives on the north side of the west end of the easement. He requested the city mark the trees they are looking to remove and notify the residents when it will take place so they can be part of the process and weigh in. He asked if this was going to be a settling pond? Mr. Wirtz said it will not. Staff plan to raise the end section so it can be daylighted, fill the hole with stone, and armor the sides so discharges dissipate their energy on the stone so it doesn't cause erosion. Mr. Penton stated that they have no problems with rain; that 24 hours later any ponding is gone.

Robert Lumsden, W226N2692 Aspenwood Lane. Mr. Lumsden stated the city map has two honey crisp trees mapped that he planted years ago that are listed not to be touched; he stated that he does not want them removed. He also said there are six trees in the back corner of the lot with X's near the garden. He is not happy that they are to be removed but understands if they must be. He agreed with what Mr. Penton said, that water has never accumulated in the back swale. Mayor Bierce stated that other than this one portion of the project on the west side, there won't be much done on this end; but the City does have to fix the deficiency.

An audience member asked when this project was targeted to start. Mr. Wirtz said it will bid this March and, weather permitting, the start date will be sometime in May.

Vickie Dedolph, N26W22326 Ridgewood Lane. Ms. Dedolph stated she lives at the very east end and they will lose a ton of trees. She asked, because of the cement wall on her property, how the City plans to get equipment into the yards to get the trees down and haul them out? Ms. Dedolph also stated the neighbor to the north has a pipe where the rain rushes down. She asked if there are any plans to put any boulders there to slow down the rush of rain as it comes down? Mr. Wirtz said they will mainly use the existing easements to access the yards. There is a 30-foot easement; 15-feet on either side of the property line. He said this is a challenging project and will include a lot of work done by hand by the contractor. And, in terms of resetting the end sections, the City may be taking the Fleximat or stone rip rap and bring it up to stop the heavy flow of rain. Ms. Dedolph stated that 24 hours after a heavy rain there is no water. Mr. Wirtz stated there are a couple pockets that pond water that can get rather deep. Access for the work on the west end is from Aspenwood Lane over the existing storm sewer easement. There are two access points for the eastern piece; one is off Stonewood Lane and one is off Ridgewood Lane in the existing storm sewer easements.

Joe Zanella, N26W22598 Oakwood Lane. Mr. Zanella stated he is trying to understand the difference between the scope of work from the last meeting and today's plans. He was trying to interpret where the

work will start, stop, and start again. He assumes it will start at Aspenwood Lane and stop at lot 22, and there is nothing between lots 22 and 13, no tree removals, nothing. Mr. Wirtz said that was right. In between lots 7 and 6 of block 15, there is a 20-foot storm sewer easement that runs north and south and comes off Ridgewood Lane. The only other viable access point runs off Stonewood Lane at the very east end (lots 1 and 2). The storm sewer easement that comes off Stonewood Lane from the north is built up. The City would have to do some pretty extensive removals to get an access point from the north. Mr. Zanella thanked him for re-evaluating the plans in his area.

An audience member asked Mr. Wirtz to repeat the entrance points. Mr. Wirtz stated there is a storm sewer easement between lots 6 and 7. Staff is looking to make use of that easement. The only other viable access point is from Stonewood Lane over the existing 42-inch storm sewer. The City will essentially be accessing the project from the very east end and from mid-point of the work from the south coming in. A question was asked if lots 13-15 is an access point? Mr. Wirtz stated no.

An audience member asked if those are the best points to get in. Mr. Wirtz stated there isn't a good point to get in as everything is built up with trees, landscaping, etc. These are existing easements where we are allowed to access, so we are going to try and use them as much as possible. The same audience member asked if there was any thought being given to approaching neighbors if a better access point is found, to try and offer them some money to be a good neighbor, in addition to the City repairing all the damage done? Mayor Bierce said that is not the road the City is going to go down.

Mr. Swan asked if there is anything else in the City easements that residents should be warned about that may have to go? Mr. Wirtz said he believes there are some retaining walls on the edge or partially in the easement, though we are not proposing to remove any of these, that it is mainly trees. Ms. Wagner stated that we will send out a notification as soon as we know what the schedule is to notify residents that anything in the easement that they want saved should be removed by them because the contractor will remove it and it will not be saved or replaced.

A motion was made and seconded (J. Tormey, J. Wamser) to recommend to send the revised Springdale Estates rehabilitation plans to Common Council for further action.

Motion Passed: For-5, Against-0.

5. Water and Sewer Division

5.1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Final Sanitary Sewer Facility Plan.

Ms. Wagner stated that Staff gave a presentation to the Common Council regarding the sanitary sewer and the water main facility plan, and included the slides in your packet. If interested, Ms. Wagner highly recommends the Committee listen to the minutes from the online meeting. There is some good information provided with good questions from the Council. This is just for the sewer. If anyone on the Committee is interested, they can set up a time to come in and take a look at it. Staff will not be putting it on the website as there is some critical infrastructure information included that cannot be publicly released.

With regards to the sanitary sewer system, Staff are undertaking some of the action items already. The Gun Club lift station is being replaced; it was already bid out and awarded. It will be a two-year process before it is up and running and replacing the existing station. Staff discussed a couple areas where there is potential for development and how to serve those areas, and what some of the challenges would be when those areas come into development. Also discussed was the current capacity of the system, what could be built there,

and any improvements that would be required if it would go above and beyond. There would also be some revisiting of intermunicipal agreements in order to buy additional capacity in the systems that we have downstream.

With regards to the water system, the Utility has challenges with some long dead ends and are planning to install some looping water main to reinforce our system. In 2024, Staff are looking to install a loop from Swan View Farms subdivision to the Sports Complex through Balmer Park. This project will help reinforce the long dead end the Utility has extending to Woodleaf Reserve and Victoria Station. The Utility has some long dead ends on the southwest side of the City that are a bit more challenging because of the looping that has to be done within county roads. Prospect Avenue will be a challenge with the current conditions and the current right-of-way available. Staff have not dedicated a lot of time to what that route will be as PFAS has pushed that back some.

PFAS were detected in Well. However, due to capacity concerns in the water system Staff did not want to take out Well 8 in addition to Wells 11 and 12. Taking them out of service could cause challenges with meeting the water demands of the community. Moving forward it will become critical to figure out what treatment system needs to be installed to remove the PFAS. It will be a three-year project to determine what works best and then get it tested, installed and online. Those wells are critical to the Utility's system, and it is important to keep moving forward as Staff reviews the projects for the community. It is on the top of the list, as well as taking out Well 5 and looping that main to provide another source to the Bluemound Industrial Park area. There is additional modeling that can be done for future expansion of the system into new areas. Staff are finding more businesses want to put their own fire pumps into their buildings, which can create strains and pressure issues in the system. If anyone has any further questions, Mayor Bierce directed them to contact Ms. Wagner.

Mr. Tormey said that in the Executive Summary he didn't see if Staff was recommending any additional capacity, like adding an additional well. Is that being considered? Ms. Wagner said our capacity is basically at the minimum and we need a lot of storage and capacity. It shows that we are just shy of the break-even point. This is based on the land use projects, so the exact timing will fluctuate. We will revisit these for future projections as we continue to grow.

Mr. Wamser asked if Ms. Wagner was aware of what the results are of the City of Waukesha not pulling water from the aquifer anymore, are our water levels going to go up? Ms. Wagner said that SEWRPC supported Waukesha going to Lake Michigan water because taking them out of the mix will have some recovery of the aquifer for the rest of us. They do have to maintain some wells for emergency purposes, but the rest of the time they are solely on Lake Michigan water. But to what level the aquifer will recover we don't know. He also asked if the well is still operable on Northmound Road? Ms. Wagner said that it is currently out of service and is one that is required to be abandoned.

No action was taken.

5.2. Discussion and possible action regarding potential water rate increase and notice of Public Service Commission public hearing.

Ms. Wagner reported on a recent public hearing required by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) for step-one of a new rate increase. The City is currently looking at a two-step water rate increase. The first step is for projects that we have already completed in our community as well as our increase in operation costs, mostly due to inflation and construction costs. The proposed revenue increase is estimated

to be \$429,000. We are reducing our public fire protection rate from \$.05 cents to \$0.45 cents per \$1,000 for the assessed value of a property. This is largely due to the recent revaluation of assessed property values. Our water rate will increase from \$3.62 to \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons. Our water meter quarterly charges are going up slightly, most residential will see an increase of about \$5.00. The step-one rate increase is 27.3%, which for the average property owner that uses 15,000 gallons of water per quarter, including the sewer charge, will be approximately \$242.25. Mr. Wirtz stated the average water/sewer utility bill using the new water rate will increase from \$220.50 to \$242.25, or a difference of \$21.75 per quarter. This rate increase is proposed to begin the 1st quarter of 2024.

The step-two rate increase is dependent on when we finish the Bluemound Road water main loop. Once that is completed, we will get the final approval from the PSC. This would likely increase our revenues by \$361,000, for largely paying back the debt from that project.

Once the City gets the final approval from the PSC, the Common Council will have to take action to approve the new rate.

Mayor Bierce asked about an increase in the sewer charge. Ms. Wagner stated that the sewer rate will remain the same; this is just a water rate increase. She said that our analysis has shown the current sewer rate charge is adequate. We have the challenge on the sewer side of charging one flat rate for the sanitary sewer across the whole community. The City of Waukesha and the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District are charging our customers their rates, which have both gone up, and we must cover the difference. So though there are no current plans to increase the sewer rates, this will be re-evaluated again in 2025-2026 to make sure it is still adequate. There are also a couple of larger sewer projects coming up.

Mr. Swan asked about the Shady Lane/Shady Nook road resurfacing project and the previous discussion about adding water and sewer main before it is repaired. Ms. Wagner stated that the Council rejected the bids to add sanitary and water main extension before the road project, and directed Staff to bid it out just as a road project. The roads will be replaced in 2024 without sanitary sewer and water main. Mr. Swan said that though some of the people stated they did not want it, most residents felt they couldn't afford the cost of the assessments.

No action was taken.

6. Engineering Division

6.1. Discussion and update regarding the Lindsay Road and Pewaukee Road (STH 164) intersection signals.

Ms. Wagner reported on a previous discussion and request from the Committee for the City to ask the Village of Pewaukee and the State to install traffic signals at the intersection of Pewaukee Road (STH 164) and Lindsay Road. The Village said they are interested in participating and the City drafted an intergovernmental agreement between the City and the Village for the signal installation. Staff have also been in contact with Wis DOT to add it to their project. The Village agreed in concept, but we haven't discussed shared costs yet. They wanted to contact Waukesha County first and ask if they would pay for the signals, as they felt it benefits the county overall. We are waiting for a response from the County before the Village will take it up again. We have left it with the Village to propose what the share would be for the City given that it is located in the Village of Pewaukee, not the City. The updated number from the State is that we would be responsible for the full \$350,000 for the project, so depending on what the split would be

with the Village will determine where we end up. The Common Council and the Village Board both support this project; it is just down to determining the costs and how that is going to be broken out, and if Waukesha County is going to have any share in it at all.

Mr. Tormey asked if there has been any discussion regarding the maintenance once it has been installed. Ms. Wagner said there has not. The State has not indicated that we would be responsible for maintenance in any correspondence she has received to date, and she has not asked that question specifically.

Mr. Swan asked if that road is going to be done this year, and Ms. Wagner said yes. He asked if she had any idea when the next time that road might be improved so we could go back again and ask; she said at least 20 years. Because the State project is a resurfacing project and not a reconstruction project it does not have to correct that intersection with this project.

Mr. Swan and the Committee thanked Ms. Wagner for her work with this request and making the State aware of this need.

No action was taken.

7. Highway Division

None

8. Public Comment

Dave Ackmann, N27W22625 Burningwood Lane. He said feels there should be signals at the intersection of Lindsay Road and Redford Blvd (CTH F). He said that though there are no visual impairments, it is hard to get across because it is a boulevard and traffic is getting heavier.

Andy Barnes, N26W22366 Ridgewood Lane. He asked Ms. Wagner if the 27% rate increase included the PFAS removal, and if not, does she feel the rate will go up again in two years when the remediation takes place? She said she couldn't guarantee it, but it is likely to increase.

Mayor Bierce clarified that 27% rate increase is only for the water portion of the bill, not the sewer portion (which is the bigger part of the bill).

9. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded (D. Swan, M. Kreiter) to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Motion Passed: For-5, Against-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Magdelene Wagner
Director of Public Works