

MINUTES
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING
August 20, 2009 (Special)
New Berlin City Hall Common Council Chambers
3805 S Casper Drive

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Board of Public Works at their next regular scheduled meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Alderman Ament, Alderman Seidl and John Graber; Mayor Jack Chiovaturo was excused and Alderman Wysocki.

Staff Present: J. P. Walker, City Engineer, Tammy Simonson, Transportation Senior Civil Engineer, City Attorney Mark Blum.

Guest: David Tapia, Bloom Companies

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 01-09 Approval of Minutes from the June 18th & July 16th, 2009 meetings.

Motion by Alderman Seidl to approve the minutes from the July 16th special meeting. 2nd by John Graber.

Upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 22-09 Update, Discussion & Possible Action on Calhoun Road Alternative 2009-A.

David Tapia: The schedule I handed out is the same schedule that we had at the last meeting. You will notice there is a red vertical line that is today's current date, and then some of the task bars are starting to be filled in with a solid black line which is the progress to date for them so as I go through them you will understand and then I added some comments to give you an idea as to where we sit with some of the items. We have gotten the notice to proceed at the end of July where we anticipated when we put the schedule together. We knew we were going to have to do some supplemental survey work, myself and the lead designer went out there to do sort of a walk through to make sure we were going to see everything that needed to be done. The remainder of the field survey is still under progress, we hope to have that completed shortly. The city provided us with the most recent traffic information and right now we are taking a look at where some of those minor geometric improvements can and should take place. That way we can get some displays pulled together with what our thoughts are so they can be reviewed and approved as we move forward. We started to ask for updates to title searches that were done from the previous project to make sure that nothing has changed in the lapse of time, so when we put the plat together we have the most current information shown. We will be getting to the utilities with a letter to let them know that the project will take place next year, the type of work that will be involved and how they will be impacted, ask them for comments and any facility maps that they might have. For the preliminary roadway plan we have gone back through and checked the alignments that had been started from the prior project, found the one that was the closest to resembling Alternative, we are just going to have our RLS make sure that the alignment will work for the preparation of the plat and then we will be set. The materials, the subsurface investigation, JP and I had talked about where we think some of the locations of the soil boring should take place given some of the information that had been gathered prior to some of the new items, such as the re-alignment of frontage roads, so that way that construction doesn't run into any problems. The sub is now getting the utilities marked so that when they go out there they won't hit any of the utilities. That's where we are with those elements.

Alderman Seidl: Have there been any new parcels since the last survey work?

David Tapia: No, the one thing that I want to make sure we gather and it goes back to analyzing minor geometrical improvements, are one of the thoughts we had from our field review was the potential taking west Elmwood straight through and connecting it up to Calhoun and eliminating that sort of half-circle shared roadway that really provides access to those homes. Where those two points come out on Calhoun are not really in the best location, especially on the one on the south because it comes out right next to another intersection and so one of the things we are looking at is if we take Elmwood straight through those properties then would use that roadway and probably be vacated and made private drives and have one access point that is far safer, it's a 90 degree angle. I want to make sure that we know who owns what in there.

Alderman Seidl: Would that be more in the lines of a shared drive, or would just be a public drive?

JP Walker: If Elmwood was brought out to Calhoun Road then the stretch of the service road right now the way it's shaped that portion would be shared by a couple parcels on each side. The question has to be, does the City want to vacate that right-of-way and turn it into a shared drive connecting to the new portion of Elmwood and what do the residents feel about that?

Alderman Seidl: I have spoken with a few of the residents that live on that shared frontage road back there, they still really want to have that frontage road there. However, depending on who would clear the snow, would it become their responsibility to see who is going to plow it or how it's going to get plowed, there are a lot of minor details that obviously would have to work out.

JP Walker: If the right-of-way were vacated it would become the responsibility of the residents.

Alderman Ament: In an effort to keep everything moving along and make sure that by 2011 we are ready to roll on this, anything to do with hiring or contracting for the right-of-way with the consultant that needs to wait until this entire schedule is completed, or is there some point in between where that can pick up? Or does this entire plan need to be approved at some point by the Board and the Council to get to that point?

David Tapia: We would need to have sort of approval of what we would deem 60% of the plans and that the geometries, the typical created cross sections, it would include our review of drainage and any design to accommodate drainage issues so that slope intercepts were set and there weren't going to be any changes and then a plat would be created. Then as the final design goes forward the firm that would be doing the appraisals and acquisitions could be going on simultaneously.

Alderman Ament: Assuming that everything stays on schedule at what point in this would that be?

David Tapia: Right around Christmas we would probably be able to get out there and start talking to the property owners regarding what is going to happen. I say that because I have to remind myself that this isn't a state project where there's different rules and regulations as to when you are allowed to talk to the property owners and I guess JP can say whether or not we can start talking to them now.

JP Walker: Once the Board has reviewed and approved the relocation order and has gone on to the Common Council. Once we have Common Council approval then that sets the stage for being able to start making contact with the property owners where there is property acquisition needed.

Alderman Ament: Where is that on this schedule from top to bottom on the left side?

JP Walker: Under real estate it's the second line item where it says "prepare, approve relocation order and plat" that looks like it is to be completed just before Christmas time, that would then open it up to bring the relocation order to the Board in January onto the Council in January.

Alderman Ament: You mentioned minor geometric improvements under traffic. What exactly do you mean by that?

David Tapia: The location of bypass lanes, the side roads themselves, getting the correct radii in there, looking to see does it function well as a single lane coming onto Calhoun or is there one where maybe it needs a right turn lane or where there is a lot of left turns where we would want to give them the space as traffic can go around them. That's the minor geometric improvements.

Alderman Ament: It looks like that should be set in early to mid-September?

David Tapia: The conceptual portion of it, this is what we suggest, here's where we think the by-pass lanes should be, this is what we think should be done with the sideroads and again with Elmwood and then have that approved so we can actually go into the real design, including laying out profiles, cross-sections and drainage issues.

JP Walker: That indicates to me that for the September special meeting we should have a concept plan in front of us similar to what I visualize as I interpreted the RAS showing where the changes are. If there are any of these minor geometrical changes we would be able to focus on those here at the Board.

Alderman Ament: So we can decide on what we want to do with them, accept them or change them?

Alderman Seidl: In regard to Elmwood potential shared drive is it possible to close off the furthest southbound onto Calhoun, bring that out to Elmwood but still keep the other aspect there?

JP Walker: It's possible but then you would have an unsafe angle, technically roads are supposed to be connecting at a 90 degree angle.

Alderman Seidl: My biggest concern is the shared drive and the reason being and there can be some issues with that. When it comes right down to it we are looking at seven property owners that would have to figure out who, when and how they are going to clear the snow. We are also looking at the fact that we are taking away a road that some of them have had there since they moved in, so there are some concerns that I have with that. I don't want it to hold up the project and that's the reason I'm asking the questions now.

JP Walker: There is also a drainage issue by the northern entrance that has to be dealt with and that

Motion by Alderman Seidl to adjourn.

Alderman Wysocki 2nd the motion.

Upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM