

CITY OF ELKHORN
Municipal Services and Utilities Committee
Council Chambers, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin
August 11, 2008

Chairman Gary Payson Sr. called the Municipal Services and Utilities Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. followed by Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Gary Payson Sr., Ronald Dunwiddie, Charles Van Dyke

Also present: City Administrator Sam Tapson, Alderman Julie Taylor, City Clerk Nancy Jacobson, Public Works Director Terry Weter, City Engineer Gary Welsh

Others present; Lawrence and J. Lorene Kitzman, 655 Estate Ct.; Tammy and Bill Ghiselli, 675 Estate Ct.; Gary Cikanek, 645 Estate Ct.; Mary Ellen Last, 649 Edgewood Ave.; Pat , Linda and Michael Romeneski, 665 Estate Ct.

DOWNTOWN FLOWER BEDS

Alderman Taylor asked that the downtown flower beds be placed on the agenda. Her concern was the maintenance of the beds. She said that the Downtown Elkhorn Partnership (DEP) tried a variety of ways to improve the flower beds, including volunteer groups. These attempts were never ongoing. She said the beds need weeding and some of the plantings are not in the right locations. Bushes are in bad shape and need to be pulled.

City Administrator Tapson said that the maintenance is about cost and time. The Park and Recreation Department has only two full time employees and summer help. This year have the summer help quit early in the season, which caused the Department to be shorthanded. Those communities that have well-kept plantings usually have a downtown improvement district. The Department tried to encourage downtown businesses to adopt a bed, but only six complied out of over 50 businesses. He said some cities have a charge. Some of the City's room tax could also be used to hire a part time person to do the flowerbeds.

Alderman Payson asked about community service hours from the County's Huber Dorm. Public Works Director Weter said that they would still have to have supervisor. Alderman Dunwiddie suggested working with the schools and their horticulture program. Alderman Taylor said that the original suggestion was to hire a high school student for the summer to weed, plant and water. Payson suggested contacting the school district about students getting credit for the work. Contacting 4-H groups was also suggested, along with holding a perennial plant drive where gardeners would donate and plant the perennials in the spring when they divide their plants.

SIDEWALK POLICY

Motion (Dunwiddie/Van Dyke) to recommend to Council to not put in sidewalk around the curve on N. Church Street at this time. Motion carried by the majority present.

In discussion, residents whose home face Estate Court and Edgewood Ave with their back or side lots facing N. Church Street asked Committee to not put sidewalks in this area. They expressed concern over the difficulty of shoveling snow on the proposed sidewalks. City Administrator Tapson said the policy has been to install or repair sidewalk during street reconstruction. The purpose behind the installation of sidewalks where there is none is defined in the comprehensive plan as a way of creating connectivity.

Presently, there is no development beyond the N. Church Street curve. Once development occurs there would be a need for this connectivity. When asked why Elkhorn West and Meadow Blossom Apartments don't have sidewalks on both sides of the street, Tapson said that was bad past practice. All development agreements since 1999 require sidewalks on both sides.

Committee discussed a compromise of replacing the sidewalk with a bike lane. Consensus was that once development occurs sidewalks or possibly a bike lane would be required.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Van Dyke/Dunwiddie) to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried by the majority present.

Nancy B. Jacobson, City Clerk