

CITY OF ELKHORN
Municipal Services and Utilities Committee
Lower Conference Room, 9 S. Broad Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

November 24, 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: Mayor John Giese, Alderman Julie Taylor, City Administrator Sam Tapson, City Clerk Nancy Jacobson, City Engineer Gary Welsh,

Others present: Gene Hoffman

N. WISCONSIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT: TREES

Motion (Payson/Dunwiddie) to recommend to Council that if a tree on N. Wisconsin Street can be saved staff is directed to keep it or relocate it; otherwise, if it cannot be saved it should be removed. Motion carried by the majority present.

In discussion, City Administrator Tapson and City Engineer Welsh presented staff with a July 3 memorandum which mentioned the trees on N. Wisconsin Street. At that meeting there was discussion concerning relocating trees from the N. Church Street project to the parks and mention of replacement of trees on N. Wisconsin Street after clear cutting. Tapson was directed to speak with the Wisconsin DOT about the sizing of trees that would replace those that were removed. The sizes designated on the plans were from 3 to 6 inches. Tapson said the assumption by staff was replacement because the memo referred to clear cutting the trees on Wisconsin. He said in his research of minutes and memorandums every discussion was about replacement never saving trees. After the July 3 memorandum, a disconnection occurred between staff and Council.

Chairman Payson said that he and other members of Council were under the impression that trees would be saved if they could be saved. Tapson has no objection to saving trees. The Public Works Director Terry Weter has identified 15 trees that could be saved. City Engineer Welsh said that three of those trees are already gone. Alderman Taylor said that there are other trees she has identified in the 200 and 300 blocks that were not on Weter's list. Welsh said he would work with the City's arborist, Vern Smith, and review all the trees to make an accurate determination of what trees can be saved or relocated. Welsh said some trees are healthy but if a service goes under them they cannot be saved. There will be time for review because construction on the project stops next week and will resume in the spring.

City Administrator Tapson said to avoid a disconnection which caused this misunderstanding plans and specifications should be approved by a Council vote at the front end.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Van Dyke/Dunwiddie) to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Motion carried by the majority present.

Nancy B. Jacobson
City Clerk