

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

August 25, 2014

Municipal Services and Utilities Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Alderman Payson followed by Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Gary Payson, Sr., Hoss Rehberg

Also present: Mayor Brian Olson, Alderman Scott McClory, Alderman Jim D'Alessandro, Alderman Tom Myrin, Administrator Sam Tapson, City Clerk Cairie Virrueta, Public Works Operations Manager Marty Nuss, Police Chief Joel Christensen, Fire Chief Rod Smith, City Engineer Gary Welsh, Lincoln Street Neighborhood Resident, and Elkhorn Newspaper Correspondent Kellen Olshefski

N. LINCOLN STREET- REGULATORY SIGNAGE

Police Chief Christensen recommended placing an in-street "Pedestrian Crossing" sign on N. Lincoln Street at E. First Ave. He would advocate its utilization as N. Lincoln Street is functioning as an arterial street and pedestrians must cross from a collector street, E. First Avenue, in order to utilize Tasch Park. He also recommended adding a "Notice" header panel above the weight restriction sign and adding a "Truck Route" sign to the Hwy. 67 sign and highlighting it. DPW Manager Nuss explained that the "Truck Route" sign would have solar powered white flashers. The goal of the signs is to keep trucks out of the left turn lane and to do this they need advance notice. The cost is \$1,600 for the flasher sign and there are funds in the budget for it. In addition, the City already has "Pedestrian Crossing" signs. City Administrator Tapson asked what happened to the overhead sign that used to be in place. It was damaged and not replaced. Alderman Rehberg would like to see costs for a left turn/no trucks over 6,000 lbs. overhead sign. **Motion (Rehberg/Payson) to install the Pedestrian Crossing Signs and for staff to provide costs for an overhead sign. Motion carried.**

ENFORCEMENT OF TALL GRASSES AND WEEDS: CHARGES FOR CITY ABATEMENT OF VIOLATIONS

Alderman Payson informed committee that numerous properties in his district have tall grass and the City mows it. DPW Manager Nuss said there are 60 lots that have been mowed twice this year in the Pines. The City charges \$100 per property to mow. Alderman Payson asked if the City is limited to that fee and if it could be increased. Administrator Tapson said it is commonplace for a municipality to take the cost to mow and then double it; a fine and assessment. He also said the City could look into out-sourcing the grass and weed abatement services. Utility Director Murphy further explained that the abatement contractor would then bill the City and the City would double the costs to the property owner. If it is not paid, it goes onto the tax roll. **In order to change the fee it would need to go to the Legislative and Regulatory Committee for an ordinance change. Mayor Olson asked DPW Manager to provide true costs; he will provide them at the next L&R Committee meeting.** The L&R meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 28.

WATER UTILITY ENGINEERING SERVICES: DISCUSSION OF BAXTER & WOODMAN SERVICE CONTRACT

Doug Snyder was asked at the last Common Council meeting to attend this MSU meeting to discuss their contract with the City. Snyder did not attend the meeting. Administrator Tapson called him last week and he did not return his call. Alderman D'Alessandro said he spoke to Snyder and Snyder said he wasn't invited to meetings and didn't receive minutes. The committee explored the idea of a single firm to provide City engineering services. Utility Director Murphy disagreed with the electrical engineering part. He has a long standing, good relationship with the current electrical engineer and questioned the reasons and potential additional costs for starting over with a new engineer. **Motion (Payson/Rehberg) to stay with both engineering firms, except for future water plant and send out an RFP for a single firm to provide comprehensive engineering services for the City.** Utility Director Murphy pointed out that only three firms provide electrical engineering services. **Payson/Rehberg agreed to amend their motion to include an alternate in the RFP for electrical services.** Motion carries.

DOG PARK PROJECT

Mayor Olson explained the Rec Committee explored the pros/cons of a dog park at Tasch and at Babe Mann parks after Kiwanis's made a presentation at a recent meeting. Issues at Tasch were with the neighbors; issues at Babe Mann were the conditions of Proctor Drive. The Rec Committee voted 3-2 to move forward with a dog park at Tasch Park. Alderman Payson did not support a dog park at Tasch. Motion by Alderman Payson to send dog park back to the Rec Committee. Motion was not seconded. Alderman Payson withdrew his motion. Alderman McClory said no one in his District wants a dog park at Tasch. He pointed out there is no water, not enough parking, will add to traffic on Lincoln, and is too small compared to Babe Mann. It was discussed to get a planner to design a plan for Babe Mann Park, including a dog park. **Motion (Payson/Rehberg) to reject Tasch Park as a location for a dog park. Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Rehberg/Payson) to adjourn at 4:59 p.m.

Cairie L. Virrueta
City Clerk