

CITY OF NEENAH
PUBLIC SERVICES AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 6:30 PM

Due to the Public Health Emergency caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, these meeting minutes are from a virtual web link (Audio & Video) and conference call (Audio only). There were no in-person attendees from the public.

Present: Alderpersons Bates, Lang, Lendrum, Spellman and Stevenson

Excused:

Also Present: Mayor Kaufert, City Attorney Godlewski, Deputy City Attorney Westbrook, Public Works Director Kaiser, Police Chief Olson, Captain Bernice, Community Liaison Officer Zuehls, Deputy Director Community Development and Assessment Schmidt, PW Office Manager Mroczkowski, Alderperson Boyette, County Sup. Brian Defferding, and Ron Klatt,

Approval of Minutes of the meetings for September 29, 2020

Motion Second/Carried Lendrum/Lang to approve of the minutes of the Meeting of September 29, 2020. All voting aye.

Public Appearances:

Brian Defferding, Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 6, 686 Oak St., Neenah.

Mr. Defferding spoke to the committee in regards to the new Winnebago County Connect Program. This is a collaborative effort between the Winnebago County District Attorney's Office and the Winnebago County Department of Health and Human Services. This program will be the central focus of the County's incarceration diversion programs. The plan for the Connect Program is that offenders will be referred by the District Attorney's Office. They will be assessed by the Department of Health and Human Services case managers. If they pass the assessment, a custom plan will be developed for each individual. Upon successful completion of the program the individual's criminal charge will be expunged from their record.

Mr. Defferding also inquired about a request that he had made in regards to the Police MRAP Unit. He has not received the requested information and would like to know the status.

Chief Olson stated the information was sent out and put on the City's webpage. Director Kaiser stated the information was presented at the July 7th Public Services and Safety Committee. Chief Olson will send Mr. Defferding the information again.

Ron Klatt, 202 Grant St., Neenah WI

Mr. Klatt spoke to the committee in regards to renaming of the slough. He provided background and history of the slough and suggested that there be a proclamation renaming the slough to the Hunt River.

Aldersperson Lendrum stated she would support the idea of a proclamation of informally naming the slough. Aldersperson Lang asked Mr. Klatt what his goal is for renaming of the slough. Did he want signage? Did he want people to use the new name and if so what are his ideas to make that happen.

Mr. Klatt responded stating he would like to see signage along Winneconne Avenue, Cecil Street and Main Street. The name would only be for the part of the slough that is in the city's boundaries. Aldersperson Boyette stated she had talked with Traffic Engineer Merten regarding the cost of placing signs along the slough and he said it would be minimal.

Aldersperson Bates likes the idea of taking the negative connotation away by renaming the slough. She stated it could make it more inviting for people to use for recreational purposes and attract potential developers. She would like the name to only be for the part of the slough that is in the city.

Aldersperson Spellman stated she also likes the idea of renaming the slough and taking away the negative connotation that the word slough brings. She is afraid of inconsistencies across jurisdictions so she too would like the renaming to be only for the part that is within city boundaries. She added though, she is not sure the renaming is going to have the impact we are looking for market wise if it is not changed on maps.

Aldersperson Stevenson expressed that he was excited when this idea was brought up in 2012. Now Mr. Klatt is presenting some valid points and good ideas. He would support the renaming but only within the city boundaries.

Aldersperson Bates would like to see a copy of the original report that was done by the Parks and Recreation Department. Aldersperson Boyette stated that Community Development Department has the report. Aldersperson Bates will put this on a future agenda after all the information has been collected.

Revocable Occupancy Permit 617 E Wisconsin Ave:

Aldersperson Lendrum was disappointed that the property owner was not at the meeting to answer questions.

Deputy Director Schmidt stated he talked with the owner's representative who told him that he had shared what he wanted to at the Common Council meeting. The representative stated that the owner made it clear this was his request and he was not willing to change it. Deputy Director Schmidt stated if Committee and Council decides to not approve the revocable occupancy permit, the current fence will remain.

Aldersperson Bates stated that this agenda item should be brought back at a future meeting when the property owner can attend. She stated that she wanted to address the fence on

the Wisconsin Avenue side of the property in addition to the fence on S. Park Avenue. Deputy Director Schmidt reiterated that this item has nothing to do with the Wisconsin Avenue fence. He further stated that this revocable occupancy permit does not set a precedent. Alderperson Bates did not agree.

Mayor Kaufert noted that, in his discussions with the owner's representative, the owner expressed his intention of installing the same type of fence along the Wisconsin Avenue side of his property. Alderperson Bates stated she would like to deal with both of the fences at the same time. Deputy Director Schmidt stated that the difference with the fence along the Wisconsin Avenue side of this property, which is also in the city right-of-way, is that there is a high probability that it can be moved back onto the owner's property, whereas the fence on S. Park Avenue cannot. The situations are not the same.

Alderperson Stevenson expressed support for the revocable permit. He feels the original fence was put up years ago and has not affected city infrastructure.

Officer Zuehls stated that, from a crime prevention through environmental design standpoint, the current fence is in poor condition and does nothing to prevent access to the owner's property. He stated that a new fence would be better at discouraging access to this property.

Alderperson Bates asked Director Kaiser about the future plans of the sidewalk along Wisconsin Avenue and if the fence on the Wisconsin Avenue side of this property will impede the Wisconsin Avenue sidewalk installation included in the Lakeshore Avenue project. Director Kaiser stated the current sidewalk plans included in that project will not be affected by the fence.

Motion/Second Lendrum/Bates to table discussion of the Revocable Occupancy Permit 617 E Wisconsin Avenue.

Ald. Stevenson requested Unanimous Consent to suspend the rule restricting discussion of a tabling motion. Request failed 3-2 (Alderpersons Lendrum and Bates voting no).

The motion to table was on the floor. **Motion passed** 3-2 (Alderpersons Lang and Stevenson voting no).

Ord 20-16 Amending Sec. 22-323 Stormwater Performance Standards:

Assistant City Attorney Westbrook reviewed the ordinance changes. He noted that the changes to the code are intended to bring the code in conformance with actual practice. The first change clarifies our practice relative to the threshold of impervious area requiring water quality best management practices. The interpretation of this section came up recently with the Lakeshore project. Our ordinance has always been interpreted to mean 20,000 additional square feet of impervious surface. The second change is in the exemption section regarding multi-modal trails. The DNR separates trails and other projects. We need to follow the DNR regulations with protected areas, so by adding this

language to the ordinance we are just incorporating the DNR rules we already have to follow.

Aldersperson Stevenson asked for clarification of the differences between the Arrowhead Park project and the Lakeshore Avenue Project. Assistant City Attorney Westbrook stated the Arrowhead Park project had more than 20,000 square feet of additional impervious surface for the trail. The Lakeshore project is under 20,000 square feet of additional impervious surface including the road and the trail.

Mayor Kaufert asked if changing this ordinance now will hurt the ongoing litigation on the Lakeshore Avenue Project. Assistant City Attorney Westbrook stated it will not. The ordinance changes are to match our past practice.

Report Following discussion, **Motion/Second/Carried Stevenson/Lang to recommend Council approval of Ord 20-16 Amending Sec. 22-323 Stormwater Performance Standards.** All voting aye.

Ord 20-17 Creating Sec. 11-57 Metal Detectors Prohibited on Public Lands and Right-of-Way:

Assistant City Attorney Westbrook reviewed his memo regarding the creation of Section 11-57 to Ordinance 20-17 prohibiting the use of metal detectors on public property. This new section was created after a recent discussion with the State and Tribal representatives on Lakeshore Avenue. Their concern is with people digging in burial areas. Lakeshore Avenue is considered a burial area and Kimberly Point Park is a likely burial area also. He further stated there are exemptions, where a no cost permit can be taken out if there is a real need to use a metal detector. Director Kaiser followed up that any public utilities that are not city owned are required to take out a Street Excavation Permit to work in the city right-of-way. We can make this a condition of their permit.

Mayor Kaufert was glad to see there is an exemption in the ordinance. He further stated he would like to see the ordinance allow metal detectors but ban the digging on city and park land. Assistant City Attorney Westbrook stated the committee has the authority to amend and add whatever language they deem is appropriate.

Director Kaiser stated that Parks Superintendent Fink informed him that there are park rules that prohibit digging in city parks. Aldersperson Bates asked if the park rules are part of the ordinance. Assistant City Attorney Westbrook stated the ordinance includes language that the Park Commission oversees the parks but the rules that Director Kaiser talked about are not in the ordinance.

Aldersperson Bates would like to see all the parks, except for Kimberly Point Park, as an exemption to the ordinance. Aldersperson Stevenson questioned why we were entertaining the idea of banning the use of metal detectors in the parks if we have already addressed the issue of banning digging on city land and parks through the park rules. Assistant City Attorney Westbrook clarified that Lakeshore Avenue falls under state law that prohibits any metal detector use and digging on a cataloged burial site. When talking with the tribal

representatives, their concern was with Kimberly Point Park, which does not fall under state law, because of the proximity to Lakeshore Avenue. After discussion with staff Kimberly Point Park and all the other parks were included in the ordinance too.

Aldersperson Stevenson stated that he did not support the ordinance as written banning the use of metal detectors in all city parks.

Aldersperson Lang agreed with Aldersperson Stevenson and Aldersperson Bates. She further stated she has concerns with Riverside Park not being part of this ordinance because it has similar characteristic to Kimberly Point Park, she still feels this ordinance is too strict and reactive because of the Lakeshore Avenue Project.

Following discussion, **Motion/Second/Carried Stevenson/Spellman to refer the proposed ordinance back to staff to amend the language to allow metal detector use on public land and city parks with the exception of Kimberly Point Park and have Lakeshore Avenue fall under the state jurisdiction.** All voting aye.

3rd Quarter 2020 Statistics for the Neenah Police Department:

Chief Olson reviewed the 3rd Quarter Statistic Report. He stated a lot of the data is COVID-19 driven. He reviewed the significant decrease in accidents, reckless driving and OWI's. He attributes this to COVID-19. He noted that the Crime Prevention statistic is much higher than this same time in 2019. He stated that this includes officers who are patrolling, checking doors, walking by hotels and parks and more. He reviewed Overdoses and Drugs. He said the numbers are down because we are stopping fewer cars which is where the majority of the trafficked drugs are found.

Mayor Kaufert asked Chief Olson about the solution to all the graffiti taking place in the city. Chief Olson responded that officers are patrolling the parks more. They are also looking at cameras for the parks. He noted the logistics and costs related to installing cameras. Aldersperson Lendrum suggested looking at the camera that is used at the Neenah- Menasha Waste Water Treatment Plant along the Loop the Lake Trail. Aldersperson Spellman stated that the City of Detroit has started a program called the Green Light Project. This project is a collaboration between the city and businesses. Businesses can volunteer to put up cameras on their store fronts that are then available to the police department. She would like Police Department research this option before purchasing cameras. Chief Olson stated that they are already working on this option. The Police Department is creating a data base of the available cameras.

Chief Olson reviewed the Unified Crime Report. He reviewed in detail the Traffic Citations, Traffic Warnings, OWI arrests, Parking Citations and Accidents. He especially noted the locations of where accidents are occurring. He noted the number of traffic accidents taking place in round-a-bouts are decreasing as drivers become more familiar with them. He reviewed Drug Overdoses. Overdoses have become more related to Covid-19 than actual drug use.

Chief Olson discussed the Open Record Requests in detail. He stated since Marcy's Law was passed the open records requests have become overwhelming for staff. They have

gone from a part-time person to a full time person handling all the requests and have had to assign additional staff to assist the full time person. He stated some of these requests can take a full shift to complete because of the media type in these records and redaction required. There have been 836 open record requests in the 3rd Quarter.

Aldersperson Stevenson questioned who was making the background check requests. Chief Olson responded that most of those are employers and insurance companies. Aldersperson Stevenson asked for detail information of who is requesting the background checks. Assistant Chief Bernice stated that the majority are employers.

Licenses:

Liquor License Review Subcommittee of the Public Service & Safety Committee recommends the Committee approve the Retail "Class B" License Application for Rolling Thunder Lanes LLC, d/b/a Rolling Thunder Lanes, 934 Byrd Ave, Neenah, William Smith, Agent, for the 2020-2021 licensing year.

Following discussion, **Motion/Second/Carried Stevenson/Lang to recommend Council approve the Retail "Class B" License Application for Rolling Thunder Lanes LLC, d/b/a Rolling Thunder Lanes, 934 Byrd Ave, Neenah, William Smith, Agent, for the 2020-2021 licensing year.** All voting aye.

Public Works General Construction and Department Activity:

- 1) Contract 7-19 (Breezewood Sanitary Sewer) – Work is complete.
- 2) Contract 1-20 (Abby, Bond, Center, Clybourn) Utility work is complete. Paving on Bond is scheduled for 10/9. The other streets will follow.
- 3) Contract 2-20 (Utilities - Van, Monroe) – Work is complete. A final estimate is being prepared.
- 4) Contract 3-20 (Street - Van, Monroe, Gillingham)
 - a) Gillingham, Van, Monroe, Cavalry – Work is complete.
 - b) Shootingstar – Work is on hold pending resolution of boundary issues. A CSM is being prepared.
- 5) Contract 4-20 (Green Bay, Tullar, Marathon)
 - a) Tullar, Marathon – Work is complete.
 - b) Green Bay – Water main work is complete. Concrete pavement was placed on the east side of the street. Pavement along the west side will be placed the week of October 12. Aldersperson Stevenson asked Director Kaiser when traffic will be able to flow both ways. Director Kaiser stated paving could be done in the next two weeks. After that is done pavement marking will need to be done.

- 6) Contract 5-20 (Utilities - Lakeshore) – Utility work is complete except for the northernmost storm sewer outfall.
- 7) Contract 6-20 (Millview Drive Utility Relocation) – Mainline storm sewer and sanitary sewer relocation is complete. Some miscellaneous utility work and pavement repair remains.
- 8) Contract 7-20 (Fire 32 Roof) – Work is complete except for replacement of the skylights, which are on order.
- 9) Contract 9-20 (Misc. Asphalt Pavement Repairs) – Work has not been scheduled.
- 10) Contract 10-20 (Misc. Concrete Pavement and Sidewalk Repair) – Work is nearly complete for the year.
- 11) Contract 11-20 (Street - Lakeshore) – Archaeology investigation is ongoing. Monitored excavation is scheduled to start on October 12.
- 12) Building Manager – Pat Fischer has announced his retirement after more than 26 years with the city. A request to fill the position is being taken to the October 12 F&PC meeting. Alderperson Stevenson noted that the Committee authorized filling the position.
- 13) Recycling/Refuse Guide – Staff is doing its annual update to the guide. If there are any areas that you feel need clarity, let us know.
- 14) Electronics Recycling – We have an e-waste event at the Tullar Garage on October 17. There is no sponsorship for item charges. The event flyer is attached.

Adjournment: **Motion/Second/Carried Lendrum/Stevenson to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.** All voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Mroczkowski
Public Works Officer Manager

I wish to thank the Public Services and Safety Committee and the Mayor Kaufert for the opportunity to update you on my vision for The Slough. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to aldermen Cari Lendrum and Kathy Boyette who have helped me with this journey. I will briefly talk about four things: 1. The history of The Slough 2. Why the name should be changed 3. What I believe it now should be called. 4. How I came to this decision.

1. THE HISTORY:

From reviewing books, documents, and maps I learned that the slough has been called The Slough since 1847. In Cunningham's 1878 book it says "We soon thought about some way to get across the Neenah Slough" I have a 1909 map designating the waterway as The Slough.

The first time The Slough was involved in a possible name change was 1961-62 when the term Stoney River was presented to the Winnebago County Board by the Neenah Council, who had petitioned the Health Education and Welfare Department to change Neenah Slough back to Stoney River. This effort did not produce any official name change and I have found no maps with Stoney River listed on it. I learned about this effort through Cari Lendrum's facebook Slough page which she established in 2017. This is an excellent resource and many people have responded with their thoughts about The Slough on this page.

The second time was 50 years later in 2012. Laurie Olson, Superintendent of Recreation, headed a Name Selection Committee. I spoke to Laurie and she indicated that even though the name Neenah Creek was selected by the committee she did not forward it on. There was lack of enthusiasm for the new name and there were many local, county, and state obstacles that would have had to have been addressed and worked through. Also there is a Neenah Creek already near Oxford WI.

2. WHY A NAME CHANGE

By renaming The Slough home values could increase for the present homeowners along the waterway, as well as those who purchase homes in the future.

By renaming The Slough those who use non motorized crafts such as canoes and kayaks could be more attracted to this waterway

By renaming The Slough it would hopefully discourage an ongoing problem of the improper dumping of trash into the waterway

By renaming The Slough it would encourage the continuity of usage into Arrowhead and Washington parks. A rebranding of this waterway could coincide with the rebranding, rebuilding and expansion of these two Neenah parks.

By renaming The Slough it would promote a more desirable waterfront through the city and thus would be seen as an attraction rather than an aversion

3. WHAT SHOULD THE SLOUGH BE CALLED-- The Hunt River.

4.HOW I CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION

I picked up the torch in 2017 when I discovered several postcards of the Hunt River- Neenah WI. Researching it with Jane Lang I discovered that Edward Hunt owned property where Fox Point is today He had a gas station and cabins to rent on The Slough during the 1920's into the 1940's. The 1946 Hunt subdivision and Hunt Ave were named after his family. Being an entrepreneur my guess is he renamed The Slough after himself to draw renters to his cabins. Neenah also had a Hunt grocery store, and the P& E Hunt family firm had agencies at points along the Fox River involved in the flour business. Before it was called Doty Island it was called Hunt Island by the natives. Nothing to do with Edward of course.I walked The Slough from Main street to Cecil Ave. knocking on all the doors of homes that border the slough on the east and west sides. When I presented the Hunt name instead of The Slough the home owners overwhelmingly said they would much prefer Hunt River over The Slough.

MY LAST THOUGHTS

During my research on The Slough and previous efforts regarding a name change I have come to the following conclusion.

1. It would be too difficult to change the whole length of The Slough to a new name. The city of Neenah, various Towns, Winnebago County, the state of Wisconsin and the Corps of Engineers would all have to be involved and agree. I'm sure you understand. A Proclamation might be a much better way to go.
2. It has to be just one name -not a selection process. I fervently believe that if the name of The Slough is to be changed, the new name should be historically connected to our city. Stoney River or Cobblestone Creek are pleasant sounding names, but they do not represent the struggle that families had in building our thriving city in which we now reside. I favor Hunt because of its historic connection to Neenah and it is the only other name I actually found that was ever attached to the waterway, albeit by Edward Hunt.