



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Plan Commission

Monday, May 18, 2020

4:00 PM

Remote Meeting via link

CIP Meeting

In an effort to keep members of the public, City staff and Council Members as safe as possible from the spread of COVID-19, the City Plan Commission meeting will be conducted through video conferencing.

The meetings can be accessed through the following link:

<https://stream.lifefizecloud.com/extension/3286075/0c19151b-3006-4d33-af75-c1d452407a87>

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

Present: 9 - Paul Medinger, Randy Turtenwald, James Cherf, Tim Kabat, Scott Neumeister, Chris Kahlow, Elaine Yager, Paul Schoenfeld, Cassandra Woodward

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Scott Neumeister moved to approve the minutes. Chris Kahlow seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

2. Comments and Updates on Budget Process from Mayor and Finance Director.

Mayor Kabat thanked City Staff and the Commissioners on their flexibility in holding the meeting via video. The Mayor stated that he and the Finance Director have been meeting with the City Departments to understand their requests. The Mayor then stated went through the budget meeting timeline with the Commission members. He stated that June 8th will be the Public Hearing. The meeting will be held at 6:00pm. The logistics for this meeting have yet to be determined. Highly encouraged to receive as much public comment as possible in writing before the meeting. He then stated that he intends to have a final draft of the budget for the Commission to review at the June 22nd meeting.

Valerie Fenske stated that the process was a little different this year. This included talking to each department ahead of time and felt that it worked well.

3. [20-0681](#) 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Buildings and Grounds:

No one was present to report on the items related to City Hall and no questions were asked.

Item #538 (Refinishing and Painting of the portable Basketball Court). Art Fahey stated that the portable basketball court was purchased in 2008 needs to be refurbished and repainted.

James Cherf referred to Item #643 (Roof Replacement for South Hall A and Lobby) and asked if this was part of the current La Crosse Center expansion. Art Fahey stated that it was not.

Item #466 (South Community Library Remodel) Shanneon Grant stated that the roof is 30 years old, the bathrooms are not ADA compliant, and the community room is not meeting the needs of the community.

Item #272 (Main Library Flooring) Shanneon Grant stated that the existing floor is cork, which is not the best type of flooring material for library use.

Item #583 (MVC Radio Tower Access Rd) Jacky Greschner stated that the road that leads up to the tower is washing away and that this tower is critical to the City's operations.

James Cherf asked about Item #508 (Riverside Park-Fish Hatchery Bldg) and what the future of that building was. Mayor Kabat stated that the building was long overdue for a remodel. The building needs new windows, HVAC system, ADA upgrades, Electrical, etc. The Parks Department is working to have a tenant on the ground floor, while the LACVB will still reside in the upper floor. The City is hoping to have a deli/coffee shop type business on the ground floor for visitors. A window test was completed on the building. Likely be a multi-year process.

Flood Control, Harbors & Waterfront:

Item #158 (Hydraulic/Levee Improvements) Mike La Fleur stated that this item has been requested each year. It really needs to be done. Improvements would be done to the Monitor Street levee.

Item #624 (Flood Levee Rehabilitation) Mike La Fleur stated that this item also needs to be addressed. Randy Turtenwald stated that the 2 projects could be rolled into one. He will look into combining them and report back to the Commission.

Item #161 (Riverside Park Levee- Phase III) Mayor Kabat stated that this item was to expand the current levee to accommodate the large boats and sustain high water and make repairs to the existing one.

Parks, Recreation, & Forestry:

Item #460 (Wittenberg Park Environmental Analysis and Fill) James Cherf asked what the status with this project was and its future. Jason Gilman stated that the Planning Department sent out a Request for Proposals for developing a portion of the park and received no interest. The park itself has wetlands in some areas and there were neighbor concerns on developing housing and

filling in wetlands. More information is needed to determine how to proceed.

Planning & Community Development:

Item #640 (Riverside North Infrastructure Phase Two) Jason Gilman stated that the amount is expected to be split up into phases over the next 3-5 years. Not intended to be General Operating funds. Should come from TID 17.

Item #454 (Riverside North First Phase Infrastructure) Jason Gilman stated this item is meant to keep the engineering phase of this project on track. Should come from TID 17.

Item #623 (Hear, Here Project- Downtown and North La Crosse) Tim Acklin stated that this item was intended to fund the existing Downtown project for the next 2 years and start and fund the North La Crosse project for the next 2 years. Both projects would be phased out over the next 10 years in 2 year increments. Tim Acklin then stated that at this time it was decided to drop the North La Crosse Project at this time. There have also been some additional funding support from other partners. Due to this the funding request of \$20,500 can be reduced to \$8,930. This would allow the Downtown project to continue for the next 2 years. Additional funding partners are also being looked for to possibly reduce this amount more.

Scott Neumeister moved to reduce Item #623 from \$20,500 to \$8,930. Paul Medinger seconded. This item passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Public Safety:

Item #570 (Fire Station Alerting System- Replacement of Existing /Failing System) Fire Chief Ken Gilliam stated that the current system is failing and out of date. They are currently having to buy replacement parts of Ebay and the internet.

Item #580 (Fire Station #3- Remodel/Refurbish Existing Station #3. Add new City EOC) Fire Chief Ken Gilliam stated that this item is intended to extend the building's life for the next 30 years.

Item #104 (Fire Station #4- New Construction) Fire Chief Ken Gilliam stated that this item is to construct a new fire station and possibly include a new senior center. Scott Neumeister asked where they were at in the process of securing a property and if the Police Department would be connected. Ken Gilliam stated that they were currently looking at properties. There were 2-3 properties that fit into their GIS models. Hope to be moving on a property soon. The plan is to merge the north side policing center together with the new building. He is working with the Police Chief on this effort. This would allow the City to then also sell and put the current building on the tax roll. Scott Neumeister thanked the Fire Chief and stated that the existing Fire Station #4 is in terrible shape and would like to see this project happen soon as it is not suitable for all the fire department staff. Police Chief Shawn Kudron also stated that they were working together with the Fire Department to combine the north side facilities.

Item #565 (Fiber Infrastructure) Police Chief Shawn Kudron stated that this item was for additional cameras for the north side.

Transportation/Utilities:

Mike La Fleur stated that the number of miles are down this year to only about 3 1/2 miles. He then stated that this was due to higher project costs.

Item #267 (Traffic Signals- Losey Blvd & State Rd) Randy Turtenwald stated that this project can be eliminated. Cassandra Woodward moved to eliminate Item #267. Chris Kahlow seconded. The motion passed 9-0 by vice vote.

Item #268 (Citywide Traffic Implementation: Interconnect & Synchronization) Randy Turtenwald moved to reduce the 2021 amount to \$140,000, keep \$300,000 in 2022, add \$250,000 to 2023, and add \$200,000 to 2024. Cassandra Woodward seconded. Scott Neumeister asked why the cost increased a lot. Randy Turtenwald stated that he was not sure. Mayor Kabat asked that he report back the reasons why at the June 8th Public Hearing. Jason Gilman asked why the Palace and Larson Streets projects were not in the budget. Mayor Kabat stated that it was because that project is being completed this year. The motion passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Item #259 (Pedestrian Lighting 7th St N from La Cross St to North Terminus) Randy Turtenwald moved to move Item #259 to 2022 and keep it at \$90,000. Chris Kahlow seconded. The motion passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Chris Kahlow asked what Item #56 (Front St Realignment & La Crosse St Extension) was. Mayor Kabat stated that the project includes storm sewer improvements, a connection of Front St to La Crosse St, and realigning Front Street where it zigzags across State St. Jason Gilman stated that the connection of Front Street to La Crosse Street was shown in the Charrette Master Plan for Riverside North. Chris Kahlow asked if the realignment across State Street would travel through Riverside Park. Mayor Kabat stated it was. Tim Acklin stated that a wall that was part of Nathan Myrick's settlement is located within the area. Randy Turtenwald stated that a historical review would need to be done on this project to determine any impacts on the area. James Cherf commended Randy Turtenwald on his knowledge of the area but stressed the importance of the stormwater aspect of this project and that it needs to be a priority.

Cassandra Woodward asked if an item related to blvd trees along Ferry Street was put into the budget. Mayor Kabat stated that the trees would be installed this year.

Tim Acklin reminded the Commission of the May 18, 2020 memo from the City Engineer requesting to add seven additional projects to the budget. Elaine Yager moved to add the projects stated in the Engineering Department's May 18, 2020 memo. Scott Neumeister seconded. The motion passed 9-0 by voice vote.

Utilities:

Bernie Lenz reminded the Commission that they try to prioritize utility projects as street are being done. He is currently reviewing bonds on utilities this year and working with the Finance Department to put together a memo. Will have a memo ready by the June 8, 2020 meeting.

Item #507 (WWTP Facility Upgrade) Bernie Lenz stated that this item included energy efficient upgrades to the existing facility.

Item #484 (Causeway Blvd Sanitary Lift Station Rehabilitation Project) Bernie Lenz stated that this project was related to Riverside North and would be

upgraded with the new development. Lift Station is also part of the recent grant that was awarded to the City.

Mayor Kabat asked if there were any last questions from the Commission. He stated that we will have an updated budget reflecting today's changes ready for the June 8th meeting and that they will continue working with the City Departments on their budget items.

4. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items.

Monday, June 8th - CIP Public Hearing (in Council Chambers)- 6:00pm

Monday, June 22nd – Final Review and Action on Draft Budget- 4:00pm

Adjournment

Scott Neumeister moved to adjourn the meeting. James Cherf seconded. The motion passed 9-0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.