

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2023, COMBINED MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEES.** 5:15 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: Al Christianson Sr., John Hoover, Nate Johnson, Dr. Steve Weiss. Others present. City Adm. Christianson, Mayor Bob Grotzinger.

**Call to Order:**

A. Christianson Sr. called the meeting to order.

Former School Conversion: Adm. Christianson reported that Northpointe has received notice of approval of the final piece of financing for this project.

**Billboards:**

Adm. Christianson reported that verbal agreements have been made with those in control of billboards along both the south and west approaches to the City for the City use these for at least 3 years for its planned Come to Play and Plan to Stay layouts featuring local scenery photos. The photographer (Suzanne Von Schroeder) who took 3 of the top 4 selected photos has also verbally agreed to accept \$150-200 per photo to use them for this purpose. The City will also need to have two of the billboard structures repaired.

**Caboose Repair:**

Mr. Hoover was asked if he could provide a quote to trim rotted siding off the bottom of the caboose at the Visitor Center and replace it with new wood. It was mentioned that he can probably do up to \$5,000 worth of work for the City annually without it being a conflict, although this limit should be checked out with the League of WI Municipalities.

**Wall Installation:**

Mr. Hoover was asked to provide a quote to install restroom walls in the plow museum, for which the City recently approved a material purchase.

**W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Parking Proposal:**

Christianson Sr. handed out a list of thoughts about converting W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. between Lake and Miner Avenues into essentially a parking lot, while discontinuing its use as a through street. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Weiss, seconded by Hoover and carried by voice vote to recommend to the full Council that further design work on that project include the following:

\*No additional parking area other than on street parking between Lake and Miner Avenues. Parking on west side would be striped for angled or perpendicular parking.

\*Replacement of the green ash planted with the sidewalk on Miner Ave. with smaller ornamental trees. The existing green ash are expected to succumb to emerald ash borer if they are not first destroyed in the process of replacing service laterals.

\*Provide a planting plan for a "green wall" consisting of a mixture of 3 or 4 species of trees of differing final heights in the area between W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. and the chain link fence along the RR right of way. This planting would be expected to help screen railroad operations and provide a small measure of relief from the frequent train noise.

\*Investigate the cost of and improvements (storm sewer, curb and gutter?) needed to reduce water ponding along this section of street during winter.

\*Provide a striping plan and means of egress from this area assuming access to Miner Ave. from it is cut off to preserve the integrity of the planned Miner Ave. median needed to facilitate creation of a RR

"quiet zone". It is believed that striping the parking along the current paved area of this section of W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. will identify sufficient number of stalls to accommodate staff and customer parking for both adjacent businesses. Both LFSL and the dental center appear to each currently have about 13 off-street stalls.

**Closed Session:**

Motion was made by Hoover and seconded by Johnson to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: Johnson-yes; Christianson-yes; Weiss-yes; Hoover-yes. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Johnson, which was seconded by Weiss and carried by voice vote, the meeting adjourned from Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. with no action having been taken therein.