

**CITY OF EDGERTON
CITY HALL
12 ALBION STREET
EDGERTON, WI**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Monday, September 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to order; Roll Call.
2. Confirmation of Appropriate Meeting Notice Posted on Friday, September 25, 2020.
3. Consider Approval of August 24, 2020 minutes.
4. Discuss Henderson Street parking from Main Street to Nunn Bush Street.
5. Discuss natural lawn ordinance.
6. Consider South Main Street traffic data.
7. Consider 2020 Budget.
8. Staff Report
9. Adjourn.

cc: All Commission Members
Department Heads

City Administrator
City Engineer

All Council Members
Newspapers

NOTICE: If a person with a disability requires that the meeting be accessible or that materials at the meeting be in an accessible format, call the City Administrator's office at least 6 hours prior to the meeting to request adequate accommodations. Telephone: 884-3341

"Notice is hereby given that a majority of the Common Council is expected to be present at the above scheduled noticed meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. The only action to be taken at this meeting will be action by the Public Works Committee."

**AUGUST 24, 2020
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EDGERTON**

Chair Jim Burdick called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Committee members present were Jim Burdick, Casey Langan and Sarah Braun. Also present were Mayor Chris Lund, City Administrator Ramona Flanigan, Municipal Services Director Howard Moser and Cedar Corporation Engineer Bill Betzig.

Flanigan confirmed the agendas were properly posted on Friday, August 21, 2020 at the Post Office, Edgerton Library, and City Hall.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Burdick/Langan motion to approve the July 16, 2020 Public Works Committee minutes as amended passed, all voted in favor.

A Langan/Braun motion to move agenda item #5 Consider South Main Street Design before agenda #4 Consider sidewalk installation on Lord Street passed on a 3/0 roll call vote.

CONSIDER SOUTH MAIN STREET DESIGN: The City is required to have two citizen input meetings to solicit citizen input about the project. Due to COVID-19 limitations, a virtual version of the first meeting was completed. Betzig reviewed the public comments (see attached).

Peter Johnson, 729 S Main Street, is not in favor of the speed tables. He feels this would be an issue for commercial and agriculture vehicles, emergency response time, and snow plowing. It would create additional noise when the vehicles are slowing down.

Roger Schieldt, 602 S Main St, is in favor of no parking on South Main Street due to the traffic increase over the past three years. He is concerned about losing a significant portion of the terrace.

Donald Kersten, 507 S Main St, is concerned about water issues in the backyards and basements.

Dean Johnson, 409 S Main St, is not in favor of the speed tables.

Chris Lund, 306 Terrace Ct, recommended residents explore the options to replace water/sewer laterals and burying utility lines during the project. Residents would coordinate the work with utility companies and private contractors.

Betzig stated the plan includes installation of additional storm sewers in the area to increase drainage from the backyards. The minimum terrace in the project will be 5 feet.

Langan inquired if this was the first designated bike lane in Edgerton. Flanigan indicated it is the first striped bike lane, but not the first bike route. Betzig said since the project is part of the County bike route, it is required to be included in the project. Braun stated residents have reached out about adding bike routes throughout the City and feels it will be beneficial.

The committee discussed the addition of speed tables. Langan asked if speed tables were added due to speeding statistics or if it is a preventative measure. Flanigan stated South Main St connects to the rural street network and a speed table would encourage a slow down when coming into town.

The committee agreed to move forward with the South Main Street Design as presented with a speed study completed for future review.

CONSIDER SIDEWALK INSTALLATION ON LORD ST: Several residents have requested installing the estimated 100' of missing sidewalk on Lord Street south of South Avenue to ensure pedestrian safety. The ordinance requires sidewalks be installed on collector streets such as Lord Street. A public hearing would be held to discuss the approval of a special assessment charge to the owner. This request has been brought to the previous chair of the Public Works committee in the past but was not placed on the agenda.

Burdick said he has received multiple complaints about this. Langan brought up concern that the first three houses on South Avenue do not have sidewalk. Flanigan stated the ordinance requires those sidewalks to be installed only during street reconstruction.

A Braun/Langan motion to setup a special assessment public hearing for the missing sidewalk installation on Lord Street passed on a 3-0 roll call vote.

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF ASH PILE FROM COMPOST AREA: After completing the processing and relocating of the compost and brush pile there is a spoils pile of ash, logs, and overall undesirable material. The cost to remove the material will be \$4,500. The compost clean-up operation has been charged to Fund 206 and is \$42,600 over budget without this cost.

Braun would like to see the project complete and concerned that the cost could be higher in the future. Flanigan stated it would be difficult to include this in the 2021 budget due to other increases. Langan asked if the DNR would be able to assist due to a portion of the pile being ash trees. Moser stated that since the pile is not primarily full trees it would be unlikely funding would be available.

The committee agreed to obtain additional quotes for removing the ash pile from the compost area and forward to Finance for approval.

STAFF REPORT: Moser provided an update to the Rollin Street project. Langan requested why the tree at the corner of W Rollin Street and Albion Street was not removed as part of the project. Moser said it was not required to be removed, but he will review it.

Being no other business before the Committee, a Braun/Langan motion to adjourn passed, all voted in favor.

Howard Moser/jas
Municipal Services Director

Memo

To: PW Committee
From: Staff
Date: 9/25/2020
Re: September 28, 2020 Meeting

South Main St traffic data: This data will be presented at the meeting.

Henderson Street parking: A request has been made to restrict parking on Henderson Street to the north side only from Main Street to Nunn Bush.

2020 Budget:

Cherry and Nunn Bush Streets resurfacing: Using funds from the 2019 borrowing and from the special allocation of \$170,000 for street maintenance, staff is recommended we mill and overlay Cherry St and resurface Nunn Bush Street next year (similar to work completed on Henderson this year). The project is estimated to cost \$92,400.

Highway striping: Both Highways 51 and 59 need to be restriped. Funding for this project will come from the 2019 borrowing.

Pollinator plantings: The 2020 budget included \$1,000 for pollinator plantings. Staff believes this would be adequate to prepare the 2 acres on Lord Street in 2021 in anticipation of a grant of seeds from the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund. If the Committee wishes to expand into other areas with native plantings, more funds should be budgeted in 2021.

Equipment requests include: air compressor, Tool Cat salt spreader, new barricades, and a Bobcat root grapple.

Natural lawns regulation: The owners of 110 Wileman Drive have asked for permission for maintaining a portion of their lawn as a natural lawn which would not meet the City's requirements for maintaining lawns to 6" tall or less. (See attached request) Policy questions regarding this issue are:

- Should natural lawns be allowed?
- Should they be regulated or the city just enforce against noxious weeds?
- Should a permit be required?
- Should a management plan be required?
- Should there be a setback requirement?
- Should neighbors have the ability to stop the installation of a natural lawn anywhere or within 5 feet of a property line?

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Hurst Property
 From: Hurst Family <skabhurst@gmail.com>
 Date: Mon, September 07, 2020 2:03 pm
 To: Edgertongovernment@cityofedgerton.com

September 8, 2020

Dear City of Edgerton Administrators,

We received a letter from Edgerton's Department of Public Works dated August 31, 2020, stating that we are in violation of a city lawn-keeping ordinance with respect to a portion of our property located at 110 Wileman Drive.

We are recent owners of our property. We purchased it on July 20, 2017, and moved to the property on November 17, 2020, after completing the construction of our home. Since our move-in date, we have maintained a traditional grass lawn approximately 50 feet around our house – in a fashion that complies with the requirements of the ordinance. The area in question rests beyond that traditional grass lawn and is comprised of natural prairie growth blending into the neighboring golf course and city property.

We ask that you allow us to protect the area in question by excluding it from the typical lawn maintenance ordinance for the following reasons:

1. Milkweed currently thrives in the area and offers habitat to monarch caterpillars and butterflies. The species of milkweed growing in the area are believed to be [Prairie Milkweed] and [Woolly Milkweed], both of which are currently endangered in the State of Wisconsin (see <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c0d7e5e4b05b835010c1f4/t/5ca25baf002291000145fec6/1554144191931/WisconsinMilkweeds-web.pdf>). While monarch butterflies are not currently considered threatened, our Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources indicates that "North American monarch butterflies are in decline" (see <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=IILEPP2010>).

2. Wisconsin Statutes § 29.604 provides that preservation of endangered or threatened wild plants and wild animals is of the "highest importance" – and indicates that our State Legislature "urges" persons and agencies to make decisions in a fashion that fully considers the importance of such preservation:

The legislature finds that certain wild animals and wild plants are endangered or threatened and are entitled to preservation and protection as a matter of general state concern. The federal endangered species act of 1973 and the Lacey act together provide for the protection of wild animals and wild plants threatened with worldwide extinction by prohibiting the importation of endangered or threatened wild animals and wild plants and by restricting and regulating interstate and foreign commerce in wild animals and wild plants taken in violation of state, federal and foreign laws. The states, however, must also assume their responsibility for conserving these wild animals and wild plants and for restricting the taking, possession, transportation, processing or sale of endangered or threatened wild animals and wild plants within their respective jurisdictions to assure their continued survival and propagation for the aesthetic, recreational and scientific purposes of future generations. The legislature finds that by restricting the taking, possession or marketing of endangered species in this state and by establishing a program for conservation and restoration of these endangered or threatened species, their potential for continued existence will be strengthened. The legislature further finds that the activities of both individual persons and governmental agencies are tending to destroy the few remaining whole plant-animal communities in this state. Since these communities represent the only standard against which the effects of change can be measured, their preservation is of highest importance, and the legislature urges all persons and agencies to fully consider all decisions in this light (*emphasis added*, see [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/29.604\(1\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/29.604(1))).

3. Countless species of animals peacefully reside in the area, currently including a doe and her two fawns. These animals will be displaced and may become a nuisance to home-owners and patrons of the nearby golf course if we destroy their habitat.

4. The area serves as the home to numerous red-winged blackbirds and other songbirds, which previously fled the area after we mowed it once in the early summer months.

5. The area provides a habitat for grass snakes which feed on insects, worms, and grubs (see <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/Herps.asp?mode=detail&spec=ARADB47010>).

6. This area blends into the same grassy growth pattern maintained on the neighboring golf course property. It has existed in its current state at least since we began contemplating our purchase of the property.

7. We kill noxious weeds in the area to prevent them from overgrowing the prairie grasses. Early this summer, we removed as many thistles as possible and we intend to continue doing so if permitted to continue maintaining this outlying area in its current form.

One of the features that drew us to purchasing our property was this prairie area at issue – it existed prior to our purchase and relocation to the property. Our home is one of the first visible by individuals entering the city limits on east-bound US Hwy 59, and the prairie offers the feel and tranquility of a rural setting. It provides beauty and natural benefits for the area such as a windbreak, sound barrier, snow fence, and erosion control for the immediately-surrounding area.

Please see the attached pictures of our home and the area in question. Feel free to contact us at your convenience with any questions or concerns. If the City requires us to follow a certain process to formally seek an exception from enforcement of the lawn-keeping ordinance for the land in question, we would like to initiate the process as promptly and collaboratively as possible.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully,

Shane & Kristi Hurst
 Enclosures