

STREET COMMISSION

CITY OF WABASHA

Minutes of the April 26, 2011, Meeting:

BOARD MEMBERS:	Jim Abbott	Charles Bricher
	Gary Wodele	Jim Pfeilsticker
	Brad Thimmesch	
STAFF:	Tony Johnson – Street Superintendent	
	Sue Schamaun	

The Regular Meeting of the Street Commission was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at 3:00 pm at the City Hall and was called to order by Commissioner Bricher at 3:00 p.m.

Roll call found all Commissioners present except Thimmesch.

Also present were:

- Dave & Michelle Meyer, 712 Circle Drive
- Chuck Tentis, 618 14th Street
- John Evers, 624 14th Street
- Jim Swanson, 524 14th Street

Commissioners Abbott asked to amend the March 29, 2011, minutes to reflect he was not present for the discussion or vote on the Stop Sign Request at Circle Drive & Pierce Avenue. Wodele and Pfeilsticker moved to approve the amended March 29, 2011 minutes. Adopted unanimously.

Stop Sign Request at Circle Drive & Pierce Avenue – Ms. Michelle Meyer:

Commissioner Bricher stated he had received calls both ways on this issue and also has heard that the Yield Signs are no longer needed since the new Stop Sign went up. He stated the new Stop Sign on Pierce has given the Right-of-Way to Circle Drive and now the people there are using it and are not slowing down either.

Dave Meyer: He stated the safety decision the Street Commission made was the right decision and thru traffic is stopping but traffic from the opposite direction has been given the right-of-way and proposes making the intersection a 4-way Stop.

Jim Swanson: He asked what constituted a Stop sign at that intersection or any intersection. Is it traffic flow, are there numerous speeding tickets in that area, have there been accidents there? He stated the people coming off of Circle Drive are not hesitating at all. He felt the Street Commission needs to look at what people are doing and why are they going back there. The majority of the people going back there live there and half the people probably live on Circle Drive and half probably live on 14th Street and doesn't feel it is inconvenient to stop and doesn't feel that is the issue. He also stated he feels it is more of a hazard today than it was before with the Yield signs on Circle Drive and stated if it is expanded further out you would put a Stop sign on 14th Street again and not on every block going down the street. The City doesn't do it

anywhere else in town and doesn't know if there is a reason for it. He stated he understands there are a lot of kids in the area and wonders if the problem is on Pierce Avenue or Circle Drive.

Chuck Tentis: Stated there is a police officer who lives on Circle Drive and wondered what he is doing.

Commissioner Pfeilsticker stated police officers are not on duty 24 hrs/day and have a life of their own and during their time off they should not have to be watching Stop signs or traffic.

Dave Meyer: Reported there are 10 kids under the age of 10 that live in that small confined area and he is concerned with the speed of traffic and there being two blocks to gain momentum that it is easy to get up to 35 mph. With the critical mass of children in that area, he feels it should be a 4-way Stop.

John Evers: Stated he lived on Twelfth Street when he raised his 5 children and felt Twelfth Street has five times the traffic that Pierce Avenue has. He stated there were a lot of kids on the street and there was a traffic problem back then also and Stop signs were put up at Pierce and Broadway at two block intervals. It slowed traffic down. He felt a Stop sign at every block is not necessary. He stated if Pierce becomes a thru street, he could see a 4-way stop at 14th Street and have them at 2 block intervals whereby there would be one at 10th Street, 12th Street and 14th Street. He also recommended that when these types of issues are discussed in the future, it would be helpful to send out a notice so all people being affected could be informed and could also come and voice their opinion at the meeting.

Dave Meyer: Stated Stop signs reduce risk of accidents and if putting up the Stop signs reduces one accident, it is worth it. He stated the main reason he relocated from Twelfth Street to Circle Drive was because of the traffic.

Commissioner Pfeilsticker stated he received a phone call from Mrs. Arens in support of the Stop Sign.

Jim Swanson: Stated he felt the City needs to come with a plan and how they are going to control the traffic in the City.

John Evers: Stated he felt there should be Stop signs on Circle Drive and one at two block intervals on Pierce Avenue.

Michelle Meyer: Stated there is no other cul de sac in Wabasha. Other cities with multiple cul de sacs have 4-way stops at those intersections.

Commissioner Pfeilsticker: Stated hitting or losing a child for something like a Stop Sign is not something anyone wants to happen. He stated he thinks the Stop signs in town are doing their job. He stated the City does not have two police cars patrolling daily anymore and there are kids and people walking. People don't want sidewalks because it costs money, so people are going to be walking in the streets.

Commissioner Abbott: Stated the State came through and mandated where Stop signs should be placed. He also stated Pierce Avenue is planned to go through the new jail and beyond and the

Street Commission has looked at this issue as far back as 2006 and probably earlier which is why 20 mph signs were posted, police were asked to patrol more carefully, and speed trailers have been put out in this area. He stated he agrees sign placement need to be consistent throughout the City and stated he would prefer a Stop sign be placed on Circle Drive coming onto Piece and the same thing at 14th Street.

Dave Meyer: He stated there is no momentum gained on Circle Drive. The speed is being carried through the intersection through Pierce Avenue and since the Street Commission made the decision to put in the Stop signs, it has worked a lot better.

Jim Swanson: Stated Stop signs should be placed on Circle Drive and 14th Street. He further stated you can't put a 4-way Stop at every intersection.

It was stated there is a 4-way Stop sign at 10th Street and Pierce Avenue due to the high number of children in the summer using the pool.

Police Chief Kruger came into the meeting and stated when speed trailers were put up in the Circle Drive/Pierce Avenue area, the average speed recorded was 19, 20-22 mph. He further stated Stop signs shouldn't be used to try and stop people from speeding.

After further discussion, Commissioners Pfeilsticker and Abbott moved to take down the Yield signs on Circle Drive and install two more Stop signs making the Circle Drive/Pierce Avenue intersection a 4-way Stop. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Pfeilsticker, Abbott, Bricher

Nays: Wodele

Commissioner Abbott stated this issue will be revisited again.

Commissioner Bricher gave the following Council update:

- Council amended the Public Improvement Policy assessment rates as follows:
 - Street Assessment Rate 30%
 - Utility Assessment Rate 40%
- Council went out for bid on 3 segments of the proposed Street Project.

Commissioner Wodele wondered if taxes could be raised enough to start doing some streets and pay for them on an annual basis and then figure out how much money that would take on an annual basis and then figure out if it could be done fast enough so we are not losing ground because 10 years from now there is going to be another project and then another one after that etc.

Commissioner Pfeilsticker wondered if a City sales tax could be created to put towards road projects. It was stated City sales tax requests have to go through legislature. It was also mentioned adding an amount to water/sewer bills has been used by another community for a street project.

It was stated survey work has been done on the proposed 2011 Street Project and locate flags can be taken out of yards. However it was stated the corner cross survey markers should be left in

until Tony can check to see what the status is with them. It was stated this could be announced at a Council meeting.

Tony reported that due to the uncertainty of Council electing to do a street project this year due to funding, he was proactive and met with Eric Passe and they looked at Main Street by the Post Office and Twelfth Street and Broadway Avenue. Tony asked Mr. Passe what it would cost to mill those problem areas and the City could help haul mix, Passe could patch and the City could sealcoat and the cost reported was approximately \$52,000. Tony then reported he could take the millings from the projects and blade them into Alleghany Avenue and hopefully that could hold it together. This was just fyi for the Street Commission to keep in mind as an alternative. Tony stated he would have to go to Council and request funds for this option.

Tony also reported he is looking into increasing his sealcoat amount to 3/8" with the hopes that the sealcoating would last longer on the streets which could help street preservation.

At 4:00 pm, Commissioners Pfeilsticker and Abbott moved to adjourn. Adopted unanimously.

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk