

**Public Property and Health Committee  
City Council Chambers  
September 3, 2019**

Call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll call by sign-in.

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Public Works Report:**

**Discussion and Action on Hunting Map – Deer in the City of Markesan:** Martin provided maps of city property. Motion by Mayor Slate/Ald. Triemstra that Martin or Betsy contact the DNR warden who had been at our previous meeting to see if he has a sample inside the city limits hunting program. Motion carried.

**New Business**

**Discussion and Action Weed Trimming Invoice Dispute at 59 South Main Street:** The property owner, Lisa Davis, attended the meeting. She explained to the Committee that she is disabled and has difficulties finding someone to assist her in weed containment and lawn mowing. She wanted the Committee to understand this was not something being done intentionally on her part. Also, she said this \$110 bill from the City is a hardship for her. Motion by Mayor Slate/Ald. Kazda to allow Lisa Davis one year to pay off the bill at \$10 a month with no interest. Motion carried. The citizen was advised that this issue may need to go to Council for approval and that we may have to reconsider the motion if there is a bookkeeping/auditing issue if this bill carries over to the next year.

**Discussion and Action on Sidewalk Removal for 160 North Bridge Street:** Motion by Mayor Slate/Ald. Triemstra that the property owner can remove the sidewalk on 160 North Bridge Street. Motion carried.

**Discussion and Action on Open Records Request from Markesan Lion's Club.** Lion's member Dave Brinkman confirmed the records request was handled. No further action.

**Discussion and Action on update on Memorial Trees on Margaret Street:** Police Chief Pflum advised the Committee that he looked at each tree from a squad and semi truck point of vision. Based on vision/safety concerns, 12 trees should be removed, and 8 trees should be trimmed. The Chief will spray paint the trees that should be removed. This will be done before the next meeting. We will look at the trimming in the spring.

**Discussion and Action on Cemetery Maintenance and Tree Removal, Cemetery Lots and Fees -** Dale Justmann and Lorraine Justmann, the Cemetery Sexton, attended the meeting. As a company that handles grave digging, Dale asked that any new trees be planted in a manner that allows access to the cemetery plots for the opening and closing of the graves. This would be in between the rows or markers.

The Committee discussed the lot pricing. In 1968, one lot was \$45. Today a single lot is \$250. A lot allows for two items (e.g. a casket and an urn) in a single lot. Lot pricing was last raised in September

2015. Also, Lorraine also provided information on the number of lots for sale. About three quarters of the cemetery lots are unsold. Lot sales average 10 plots per year. This year, zero have been sold. Lorraine reported that some people look for above ground memorials, which is not allowed in the newer side of the cemetery. The cost may be factor in some cases.

Martin advised that in 2020, he will bring a recommendation to the Committee to update the side road to gravel and widen it from 5 feet wide to 10 feet wide. About 9 graves would be lost. This will be on the agenda for next year.

**Discussion and Action on Phelps Cemetery Memorial Trust:** Information was provided in the Committee packet.

### **Old Business**

**Discussion and Action on Soldiers and Sailors Park Beach Preservation:** No action taken.

**Discussion and Action on Pool Ordinance:** The Mayor provided some feedback on the pool ordinance wording. Also, General Engineering reviewed the ordinance and identified possible updates. Both items were distributed to the committee for review. This item will be placed back on the agenda in January.

**Discussion and Action on Update for 650 North Margaret Street Maintenance:** Mayor Slate excused himself from the discussion. Per her request, Ald. Henke contacted Connie Wilsnack by phone. Connie was advised by Ald. Henke that calling into meetings was done as an exception, not as a normal practice. Ald. Henke asked Connie Wilsnack if she has taken any further action since the last meeting. She said she contacted some people but hasn't heard anything back. She said she spoke to the renter about the repairs to the support beam and reports the building has deteriorated over the past couple years. Regarding the vermin infestation, she advises that two traps are set and that she knows of one animal that was caught. Ald. Henke explained that it was important that she continue to look at the structures and make some repairs before additional buildings collapse or partially collapse and present a safety concern. Connie confirmed she will have an update for the October meeting. This item should go on the October meeting agenda.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ald. Triemstra/Ald. Thiem to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.