

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Dougherty, Alderman Witte, Alderman Gonzalez, and Alderman Robinson. Others: Alderman Panus, Alderman Anastasia; Mayor William Aiello; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Tim Richardson, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief, and Michiko McElfresh, Mayor's Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Crawford called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, September 1, 2020)

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 meeting was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Gonzalez. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion Items

i. Presentation – Improvement of Bicycle Lane Infrastructure (Crawford)

Alderman Crawford said that he has been collecting data to put together a presentation to improve the bike lane structure in the City of Olean. He wanted the Council to take note of the concept on the first page. He believes that Hamburg has bike lanes that are a different color to differentiate, protect and give a sense of security to bike riders. He mentioned that it is easy to recognize that it is a separate lane.

Per NYS DOT, Alderman Crawford described the concept of complete streets, which are designed and operated to be used by all users of all ages. The concept recognizes that everyone should have access to use our streets. Alderman Crawford suggested that as we put money and capital into replacing our streets, we should start to encompass a complete streets policy. He said that we should move forward when we upgrade streets to make them accessible for both automobiles and bikes. He said that some communities take on a complete streets policy and he thinks passing a policy at the

Common Council level will help formalize the intent to start this new planning and way of thinking.

Alderman Crawford showed a slide of the current bike lanes that randomly start and end. He said younger families are looking for walkability and bike-ability as well. He showed photos of Wayne Street's bike lane. He and his family have taken to riding the bike lanes and he is impressed and thinks with small improvements they would be more appealing.

Alderman Crawford notes the NYSDOT Standard:

Class I: Shared use path. In high traffic area—giving protective lanes to bicyclists.

Class II: Middle: Reasonable safety, cost and sustainability. For median traffic area

Class III: Most cost effective and affordable. Very sustainable and better than what we have. There are markings and signage to warn drivers that it is a heavily used bike path.

Alderman Crawford suggested that Washington Street becomes a "Bike Boulevard" identifying a route, possibly reducing speeds and adding signs.

Alderman Crawford discussed creating a bike network. He reiterated that our focus has always been on walkability but we need to focus on bike ability too. He said it is not a very expensive way to connect the entire community. To create a network from all of our wards to our park spaces. He said that we have invested in our parks and need to create safe family friendly ways to mobility.

Alderman Crawford said that Washington St. is 30 feet wide and can be modified into a bike boulevard by using some signage, markings and additional trees to help traffic calming purposes. He suggested that since we are putting money into Washington Street, we can take the opportunity to improve the neighborhood with the bike boulevard.

Alderman Crawford indicated that Wayne Street could use some type of more protective bike path as there is quite a bit of traffic and speeds are quite high. He also mentioned the investment in Forness Park – he thinks in the City's efforts to reactivate park space there—the City would need a class I to get bicyclists there.

And possible Front Street would be a good idea to get people out and moving.

Alderman Crawford asked the council for feedback and asks DPW for an estimate of what it would cost to do some of the upgrades and to do a bike boulevard on Washington Street. He suggested connecting the River Trail which crosses Washington on North 20th Street to Oak Hill Park which we have committed to investing capital and then continuing down Laurens Street so it will connect to our downtown. He said that maybe not everyone gets it, but it is about approving amenities without a lot of upkeep and it will improve property values and our tax base.

Alderman Crawford said that if the cost is reasonable he will ask the council's approval and support to take the cost out of the project's contingency funding. And then to pursue a complete streets policy.

Alderman Anastasia asked if a bike route on Washington Street could be accomplished by 3M Tape. Mr. Ring said yes it was possible and he agreed with Mr. Anastasia that it is expensive.

Alderman Gonzalez said the tape is probably not as expensive as putting a protective coat. And said that it is probably the only way that the bike lane could be accomplished on the side street. He thinks the bike boulevard is a great idea. .

Alderman Witte asked if there will be any marking for bikes on Front Street in Phase II. She said that there is a lot of bike riding on Main Street and it would be a good idea to have a bike boulevard. Mr. Ring responded that there will be a bike lane by the hospital. Alderman Witte asked if it would be possible to take the bike lane and extend it down Main Street. She thinks that Alderman Crawford's idea of bringing the Wards together in a bike path is great idea, and she thought about streets that are straight shots like Main Street where it is a viable option.

Alderman Crawford said that that we won't be able to do it all at once, but from a strategic planning point of view we should start planning the bike routes.

Alderman Gonzalez suggested the downtown hub which would be a protective use trail and the river trail, feeder trails were necessary too.

Alderman Dougherty likes the idea of the bike boulevard as well, his only problem is logistics. His ward ends at Oak Hill Park. But there are many houses without driveways on Washington Street. And there is a lot of on street parking.

Alderman Crawford said that there is a parking lane on his proposal. He explained that a bike boulevard shares with cars. It has an 8 foot parking lane but also two way traffic.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if there was only one side parking on Washington Street and it was affirmed.

Alderman Dougherty said that was what he was worried about that and the blind spots that are created by the parking.

Alderman Witte said that on Main Street the neighborhood is different as there are places on Main Street that do not have sidewalks.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if she thought a bike boulevard would work there and Alderman Witte agreed that it would.

Mr. Ring discussed the Main street idea, he said that is a law in place that says that you cannot ride your bike on the sidewalk in front of the school (the former Boardmanville). He said that on Main and Front Street, it does not make sense to have a bike boulevard as people tend drive fast.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if a protective bike path might be a better idea for Front Street to North Union.

Alderman Gonzalez and Alderman Crawford discussed making a protective bike path down Wayne Street to connect with the bike path by Country Fair.

Alderman Crawford said that this is a connecting point behind Country Fair and additionally if you look at Wayne Street there could be a cross down Washington and use North 12th street as a connecting point. He thinks there should be one down Henley Street, Washington Street and Wayne Street, And then use North 12th as the cross section. He said that it is about getting across town safely, efficiently and effectively. He said the council needs to decide how to tackle it.

Many aldermen stated that North 12th Street is heavily traveled and stated that it is a truck route.

Alderman Anastasia said that Hamburg has the bike route differentiated in red and it looks good. He asked if that is cost effective.

Mr. Ring said that he thinks they used a dye in the pavement and will last a long time. He said that paint would be very expensive.

Alderman Robinson said that in DC they made a center median for bike traffic. The lane for turning is strictly for bike traffic. It works well, but the street is very wide.

Alderman Crawford said that he spoke about this to the Mayor and Bob. He asked Bob how much contingency funds were in the project. Mr. Ring said \$50K. He said that there is another \$200K for a total of \$250K. Mr. Crawford passed out an overview of Washington and North 4th Street. He said that reached out to Bob to see what we could do to 4th street and Washington to make it safer.

Mr. Ring was asked for ideas to improve

Mr. Ring said that eastbound on Washington Street, there are not many accidents, but speeds are high, which should be the main focus. The sidewalk is pitched and not ADA compliant. He suggest pulling the side sidewalk out, redoing the radius, bringing the park out closer to the street thus reducing pavement area—and also shortening the crossing across Washington Street. He added that they should put in curve ramps in front of the stairs. Mr. Ring said that he would not ask to change where the stop signs are or the traffic pattern. He thinks that is asking for more accidents at least for the first few years.

Mr. Ring was asked about moving the stops signs and he referenced the stop signs at Walmart that are not aligned. He said that people never know what to do there. Regarding this intersection, he said that this was “fixed” 30-40 years ago and the “fix” seems to work.

There was a discussion about the history of the stop signs. Mr. Crawford that that is possible to drive east on Washington Street and go all the way to Laurens Street and never make a stop. He said that Mr. Ring is proposing to slow down traffic by bring out the curb.

Alderman Gonzalez said that it is not unlike what the City is doing on North Barry Street and Main in Phase II.

Mayor Aiello said that they have talked about doing something here since the 1970’s.

Alderman Dougherty said that when Washington hits Buffalo Street it is confusing—much like Walmart.

Alderman Robinson said that the rules of the road and who has the right of way is a teaching issue—drivers’ education is important.

Alderman Gonzalez said that some of the side streets have four way stop and some do not. There is no consistency.

Alderman Witte thinks that the Police or Fire department should be telling where the traffic signs should be instead of the council.

Alderman Crawford would like DPW come up with the cost estimates for doing this.

Alderman Robinson asked about maintenance of Washington Street. Mr. Ring explained the difference between paving and melting and milling, which will not be done here, but is being done in other parts of the City.

Alderman Crawford asked Mr. Ring to get some estimates. He said he would but would need to do so quickly.

a. Discussion Items

i. Consultant Agreement, Construction Observation and Administration for Airport STE Pavement Reconstruction Project (Ring)

Mr. Ring stated that in an effort to get the information to you sooner. They have had 4 resolutions that have gone to the council on this construction project. This one in particular is for inspection services. It is funded through the FAA grant. C&S been the consultant for years and are great to work with.

ii. UCS Contract (Aiello)

Mayor Aiello said that this is the annual contract with the Unified Court System for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and officers that they use. They will provide us with \$35,599 per year. It is a renewal for resolution;

Mr. Crawford asked if that was all the City received for rent. Mayor Aiello said that it is for Maintenance and upkeep. They do not pay rent, the City is obligated to have a City Court. He said that the City did request 17 percent for HVAC and 17 percent for the door construction project. He said the Unified Court System denied the request as the state does not have any money.

iii. Update – Ongoing Capital Projects (Crawford)

Mr. Ring gave the following updated:

Washington Street Project. He thinks it will come under budget. Not many concerns with the project.

Alderman Dougherty asked if the waterlines were abandoned. Mr. Ring said they cut them off and fill with mortar

Phase II Mr. Ring said that they have only had one invoice. No change orders yet. But there will be some change orders in the second invoice. He said they will be making a decision in a couple of weeks as how to proceed—they are working on the North side. Not sure if they are going to move to the south side of the bridge. There are some problems with getting small parts, concrete--this time of year is hard to get and there are rumors that the blacktop plant with shut down and they will not stay open for anybody. Mr. Ring said that there is a COVID kickback and they may not be able to finish this year, so they are coming up with a plan if it is necessary to continue next year. Walkable Olean Phase III on deck and they do not want to bottleneck both connections from East Olean. Mr. Ring said that are trying to figure out how to finish one in the spring and start the next one.

Alderman Crawford asked if this will punt the completion until spring. Mr. Ring said it is possible as we are running out of time, but it is still up in the air.

Alderman Witte asked if the North side will be finished and MR. Ring said yes for the most part, although trees may not be planted and the push button signals may not be installed as they are having trouble getting parts.

Pump Station Mr. Ring stated that they have had a number of change orders for that project, mostly because the tree work (\$18K) and the surveyor (\$900.), but the tower has been eliminated which reduced the cost. Mr. Ring said they are moving quickly. It looks like there are within budget. They should be done by November. At which point City workers and Mazza will work together to complete the project. He stated that the project will not be functional until spring. Landscaping, the road, etc., will be finished in the spring.

Alderman Panus asked what color the building was going to be. Mayor Aiello said that they met with the neighbors and he believes it is going to be brown.

Alderman Witte asked about paving. Mr. Ring said that they will probably put millings down also their will run out of time.

The Well House

Mr. Ring said that the project has not started yet. He has met with Ms. Kerper and they are working on some MWBE issues. He said that they have not yet send an order to proceed to the contractor. There have been change orders and a reduction of \$12, 550. The leaves with \$28,585 Contingency going into construction. He said that there are some delays. They are basically building onto their well house and placing fluoride injection site.

The Times Square Entrance

Mr. Ring said that most of the demo is done, there is a tight budget. They should see it coming together soon.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Crawford, seconded by Alderman Dougherty. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:23 p.m.