

**MINUTES OF THE
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL**
Workshop Meeting Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Steve Washburn
Deborah Everson
Lindsay Guetzkow
Adam Pawelk
Michael Walters

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Steve Washburn called the Watertown City Council Workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2019 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Council Members present: Washburn, Michael Walters, Deborah Everson, Lindsay Guetzkow, and Adam Pawelk.

City Staff present: City Administrator Shane Fineran, City Engineer Andrew Budde, and Clerk/Treasurer Lynn Tschudi.

2. New Business

A. Hwy 25 to Lewis Ave S Pedestrian Connection Discussion #2

At the May 14 work session, council discussed a pedestrian connection from Highway 25 to downtown. At that time, council asked City Engineer Andrew Budde present alternate routes to downtown besides White Street.

Budde displayed a map showing possible routes on Territorial Street, White Street/Madison Street and Fremont Street.

The first segment discussed was Territorial Street. Walters asked about cost. Budde said the cost for construction of a trail is roughly \$30,000 per block. Washburn asked if there would be retaining walls needed. Budde said no.

Budde displayed the White Street and Madison Street route. He pointed out trees and landscaping that could be impacted if the sidewalk was constructed. Madison Street crosses fewer driveways than White Street. Sidewalk construction is around \$17,000 to \$25,000 per block.

Budde said the final option for a pedestrian connection is Fremont Street. Both sides of the street cross a number of driveways.

Guetzkow asked if the sidewalks would be constructed up to the curb or if a boulevard would buffer the sidewalk or trail. Budde said having a boulevard is preferred. Pawelk added that a boulevard can help with ADA compliance.

Washburn said he does not want to see the city maintaining sidewalks; only trails. He believes if an exception is made, residents will be upset.

Walters said he would like to see two connections to downtown someday. One on the north side of town, one on Fremont.

Washburn asked if Fremont or Territorial are closer to Westwood Assisted Living Facility. Fineran said Territorial would be a closer route to downtown. Pawelk said that although Territorial is the main vehicle route, it is not the ideal pedestrian route. Washburn thinks that Territorial will get used

more by pedestrians. He said there currently is not a route to connect the east side of town to the west side.

Everson asked where MNDOT is planning to install the pedestrian crosswalk on Highway 25. Fineran said it is up to council to determine where it would make the most sense.

Guetzkow asked if there would be Safe Routes to School funding available for any segments. Budde said he would research the qualifications.

Pawelk summarized that Fremont is not a pedestrian connection option at this time. Pawelk said the north side of Territorial could be eliminated as an option to avoid the retaining wall. Pawelk would like to see an eight foot trail constructed rather than a five foot. Walters said cost could dictate the size of the trail constructed.

Council discussed using Territorial Street for the connection and what size of a sidewalk/trail could be constructed.

Washburn summarized that council is in favor of a pedestrian connection from Highway 25 to Lewis Avenue via the south side of Territorial Street.

Washburn would like council to decide on a pedestrian crossing on Highway 25 in order to provide direction to MNDOT. Council discussed using High Street as the marked pedestrian crossing. Fineran said High Street is a good option to accommodate events and residents near Highland Park. The second marked pedestrian crossing would be at Territorial Street and Highway 25.

3. Adjournment

Workshop adjourned at 6:25 pm.