#### **NEWS**

## Common Council rejects speed bumps for South Main St. reconstruction

By Sam Martino Special to the Reporter

A proposal to place speed tables (bumps) along a half-mile stretch of S. Main St. was rejected Tuesday by the Common Council after neighborhood residents mounted opposition to the plan.

Opponents of the measure quickly drew allies from the council concerned about whether speed bumps were the right answer to what some city officials said were concerns of excessive speeding by motorists driving along the southwest into or out of the

James Burdick, chairman of the public works committee, proposed backing away from the proposal saying, "This stretch [of road] is not a typical suburban street."

Burdick echoed what others had been saying about S. Main St. as a feeder road connecting a rural sector into the city as opposed to a neighborhood

Alderperson Candy Davis, who also is a member of the Edgerton Area Fire Protection District, warned that bumps would slow down first responders from the fire department.



Casey Burns of Burns Full Service spoke against a proposal for speed bumps on S. Main St.



Pete Johnson, who led opposition to a proposal for speed tables or bumps on S. Main St., addressed the **Common Council Tuesday.** 

### **Photos by Sam Martino**

"The speed tables will slow Main was one of the homes down response time," said targeted for a speed bump.

"It would seem that speed Pete Johnson, who spearbumps are better suited for headed opposition to the secondary neighborhood streets carrying primarily speed tables (more commonly called speed bumps), passenger vehicles and light presented new information pickup trucks," said Johnson, Tuesday from a survey of local noting that there was too residents, noting 43 people out heavy a concentration of truck of 60 along the route opposed traffic along the street. the "bumps." There were only Construction began Aug.

four who favored the bumps, 16 on a two-year project to said Sadie Schieldt, who upgrade the east-west route serving motorists on the Schieldt, who has lived on southwest side. The half-mile the street for 47 years, said stretch of road is slated for residents want other methods upgrading with new paving, curb and gutters as well as new sewer and water lines.

The Common Council She, along with Casey Burns recently approved a \$1.4 million contract for the first phase of rebuilding parts of S. Main Street.

Then, Alderman Tim Shaw idea," said Burns who sees complained about the road heavy truck traffic traveling surface and how difficult it past his business at 318 S. Main was for him to hold a cup of coffee without it spilling as he drove to work because of

He was among the members of the Common Council to Johnson's home at 729 S. pull back on the project.

The roadway is considered a major feeder route for some residents who travel to Janesville from the Hain Road subdivision as well as others headed to Indianford, Fulton and the surrounding area. "We are a main thoroughfare. We don't need these tables," said Johnson in an interview with The Reporter before Tuesday's Common Council meeting.

Johnson said residents are concerned about noise from commercial vehicles passing over the speed bumps.

Opponents of the speed bumps also appeared at a meeting in August conducted by city officials at the Edgerton Public Library.

Then, Johnson presented a list of items demonstrating why he and others thought the speed bumps were not a wise

City officials proposed the speed bumps as a way to slow down traffic on the road following complaints of

City Administrator Ramona Flanigan said other cities have adopted various ways of reducing speed on streets by using speed bumps or circular roundabouts at intersections.



Typical sign on a city street.

Johnson said nearby cities (Whitewater, Evansville, Fort Atkinson, Milton, or Stoughton) use speed tables.

Madison contains several areas where speed bumps or circular roundabouts are in

The Edgerton Police Department conducted a speed survey in 2019 that showed traffic exceeding 55 miles per hour in the 25 mph zone on a frequent basis.

Instead of the speed bumps, Johnson suggested lowering the speed limit approval from the city to to 20 mph and 35 mph on County F leading onto S.

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Johnson said he believed there would be increased noise from heavy trucks. construction trailers, and other vehicles crossing over the bumps if they were installed.

He submitted 93 photographs of various vehicles, such as semi-trucks, dump trucks and pickups with trailers to illustrate the type of vehicles using the roadway.

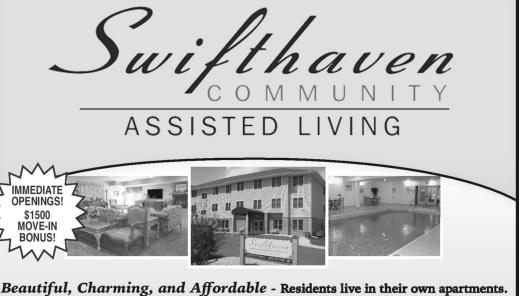
He also called for more police crackdown on speeders.

In a related action, Police Chief Robert Kowalski gained purchase signs to slow down traffic on Hain Road. also located in the South Main Street area.

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helped conduct the survey.

to slow down traffic, including

more police enforcement and

of Burns Full Service, warned

that truck traffic along the

"I don't think this is a great

Bob Rosenbaum of 415 S.

Main St. and a former motor-

cyclist, said the speed bumps

were dangerous for riders.

road would create problems.

better signage.

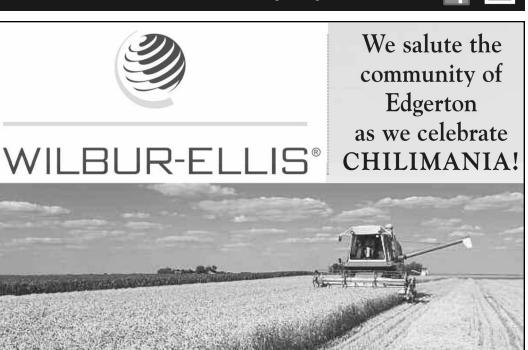
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