

Citizens' Advisory Committee
September 4, 2012

Present: Chris Able, Grace Brandl, Janet Breuer, Pat Chermak, Roger Drape, June Kramer, Linda Hunter, Anthony Mack, Ed Rappe, Charles Stangel

Excused: Faiv Neng Her, Gloria Wallace

Guests: Mayor Nickels, Ralph Kramer, Ned Breuer, Todd Blaser (Deputy Fire Chief)

Tony called the meeting order at 4:07 due to some confusion about our location.

The meeting began with the Mayor's report. He introduced the **Adopt-a –Park program** that will be voted on by the Common Council tonight. Primarily he talked about the **budget**:

- We will not be taking money from MPU
- We will pay more debt off.
- Our property values decreased by 3%
- 65% of our budget goes to fire and police departments (the fire department increased its contributions to benefits)
- Our financial situation is better than for the 2012 budget—donor distress TIFs.
- Our debt repayments will be the highest in 2013, to decrease in the future (because we start with a \$1.5 million hole.)

Debt plan will be presented to the council to be halved by 2018.

- Structured debt schedule calls for \$10 million in 2013.
- He plans to borrow only \$2 million per year after that, putting the excess into roads, parks, fire trucks, etc.

Executive budget to be presented by end of September.

Grant for Red Arrow Park will enhance that park.

Questions for the Mayor:

1. What about the dog and bird excrement on that beach? Other improvements will discourage birds by bringing more people, planting dune grass, etc.
2. Why do the police need an SUV for a patrol car? Better for snow and for command station.
3. Did the Aquatic Center have a good summer? He hopes it will break even.
4. Is a new Thrift Store coming to Manitowoc? He hadn't heard about it.
5. What was the resolution to the crossing guard issue? They will be paid by shift--\$10 an hour, one in the morning, one in the afternoon (each 1.25 hrs.)

Val Mellon was our main speaker. She is the City Engineer, Director of Public Works, and Director of Parks and Recreation.

She talked about **streets** first. Her major problem is that they have a major reduction in work force and funding.

- Just two small new paving projects next year—one in Silver Ridge area, one in Packer Lane.
- Reconstructions of streets will include 35th and Calument S.; S. 7th Street (Jay to Madison) plus a short section of Marshall; Reed Avenue—W. and E. Crescent; Pheasant Lane; N. 10th Steet and Huron.
- Crack sealing can extend life of a street, but she has only 1 crew working, and they have to cover paving, reconstruction of asphalt, and crack sealing. She's requested 2 seasonal workers to be able to have 2 crack sealing crews, one north, one south.
- Mill and resurface keeping the current footprint: Spring Street, Spring Hill Drive, and Edgewood Lane.

Parks

- **Red Arrow** will get a lot of attention because of the grant. They hope to add 1 foot of sand to the beach as well as reduce the water runoff from the parking lot. They also hope to move the playground and replace it with another baseball diamond.
- **Lincoln**—they hope to have a net zero bottom line for the zoo. The zoo board will be fundraising to allow improvements.
- **Blue Rail Beach** will also be improved by beach maintenance.

Questions

What will happen to Waldo? The state will have a public information session in October. It is a huge project of \$10 million. There may be lane reductions in areas of schools to reduce speeding. The construction won't happen till 2016.

Did we get stimulus money? Yes, \$1.5 million for the transit station.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01.

Respectfully,
Linda Hunter
Secretary

