

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**CITY HALL, PLANNING/ENGINEERING CONFERENCE ROOM (WEST)**  
**Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 4:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Alder Chris Able, Mary Balte, Grace Brandl, Janet Breuer, Pat Chermak, Linda Hunter, June Kraemer, Anthony Mack, Ed Rappe, Chuck Stangel, Gloria Wallace, Anna Marie Woods

Guest(s): Amy Meyer

Minutes: Submitted by Linda Hunter

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:00pm.
- II. Update/Discussion from Mayor Nickels
  - a. 2015 Budget
    - i. Budget total is \$55 million with a \$1.2 million shortfall from the requests
    - ii. Mayor recommends borrowing \$2.4 million for long-lasting items
    - iii. Proposed a small tax increase of 1.9% over last year's tax which would be about \$15.00 per year on a \$100,000 home
    - iv. Mayor is looking forward to 2018 when the MPU loan is paid off as well as some other positive development which should free up some money
    - v. Mayor is hoping to adopt a practice of having the Fire Department work with the Housing Inspectors similar to that which occurs in LaCrosse
    - vi. The proposed budget is helping to rebuild the reserve funds
    - vii. Room tax money will be used for downtown improvements
    - viii. Public Budget Listening Sessions are scheduled for October 22 at 10:30am to 12:00pm and again from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at City Hall in the Council Chambers
    - ix. The Finance Committee will also hold open sessions to discuss the budget
    - x. The Common Council's public hearing on the budget is scheduled for Monday, November 17, at 7:00pm
  - b. Mirro Building Update
    - i. The 3-story building is down
    - ii. No further request for the 5-story or 6-story buildings
    - iii. Property owner may move forward on the 5-story in late fall or early spring
  - c. The JC Penney mall will be condemned if the owner does not get a demolition permit by January 2015
  - d. Comcast has a monopoly contract on the City's lines, another provider could come in but they would have to construct their own lines which is unlikely due to costs
  - e. Budweiser buyer (Breiss Malting) is expected to start producing malt but currently the building is used for storage
- III. Guest Speaker – Amy Meyer, Executive Director of the Manitowoc County Historical Society
  - a. The Manitowoc County Historical Society is the third oldest in the State of Wisconsin
  - b. They are a 501c3 non-profit organization
  - c. They have two facilities, the Heritage Center in Manitowoc and Pinecrest Historical Village
  - d. In 2014 they had 11,000 visitors, 38% out of the area, 2,000 school children and 200 people who are researching tax rolls, cemeteries, etc.
  - e. The Society is focusing on interactive experiences for children and adults at Pinecrest

- i. In 2014 the Society hosted a vintage baseball game
  - ii. The hope is to develop interactive experiences on non-event days
- f. The Society has a commitment to education, both through appropriate grade level activities for children and expanding their summer camps
- g. The Society is also working on varying programs for different age groups such as the Great Manitowoc County Race Event, the World War I Encampment, bringing programs to senior living facilities and expanding the oral history collection
- h. Meeme Inn Project
  - i. Major project is moving and developing the 3-story inn which is one of five stagecoach inns in the state
  - ii. The inn has been gutted and found were many original materials including the original bar, floor and ceiling
  - iii. There was also a ballroom with a puppet stage and painted horsehair panels
  - iv. The porch was demolished with the aid of four Ford trucks and their video of the event won them a grand prize in a Ford contest - \$5,000
  - v. This will serve as an immersion experience eventually
  - vi. The project will cost about \$1.3 million
- i. The community can assist the Society by becoming members, supporting events and passing on our family histories to family and friends

IV. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 11.04.2014, beginning at 4:00pm at the City Hall, Planning/Engineering Conference Room (West.)

V. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm