

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, PLANNING/ENGINEERING CONFERENCE ROOM (WEST)
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Alder Chris Able, Grace Brandl, Pat Chermak, Linda Hunter, June Kramer, Anthony Mack, Ed Rappe, Anna Mare Woods

Excused: Mary Balte, August Krieser, Charles Stangel

Guest(s): Anita Rappe, Cathy Cole, Ralph Kraemer

Minutes: Submitted by Linda Hunter

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:02pm.
- II. Update/Discussion from Mayor Justin Nickels
 - a. Mirro Building
 - i. A “Stop Work Order” has been issued on the building because their permit had expired at the end of December 2014.
 - ii. Negotiations on ongoing.
 - b. Mid-Cities Mall
 - i. The City has extended the deadline for the removal pending a grant from the state of \$700,000 (Idle Site Grant).
 - ii. The total cost would be \$1.4 million.
 - iii. Current expectation is to have the building down by 2015-2016.
 - c. Common Council
 - i. Meetings will now be held once a month.
 - ii. Committee/Council meetings will be recorded (audio/visual) making it easier for citizens to follow issues, read documents, etc.
 - d. City Budget
 - i. The City has a balanced budget and perhaps a small surplus.
 - ii. The City is trying to get to a dollar amount to eliminate borrowing for items such as police cars.
 - iii. The TIF District (Harbortown) will end as well.
 - iv. Reserve funds will be restored, for instance at the Marina.
 - v. The Finance Committee again reviews the City plan and approves it.
 - vi. Not much improvement in taxes until 2018.
 - e. Waldo Boulevard Project
 - i. Anticipate starting/completing project in 2017 and 2018.
 - ii. The project is now separated from Hwy R.
- III. Guest Speaker – Anita Rappe, President, and Cathy Cole, Membership, of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Manitowoc County
 - a. History of the LWV
 - i. Originally organized in 1919.
 - ii. Non-partisan group whose goal is education and advocacy on issues.
 - b. About LWV
 - i. One of their major concerns is to get voters registered to vote.

- ii. They are present at high schools, farmers markets, Two Rivers events and various other locations to register voters.
- iii. All candidates are invited to their forums when organized.
- iv. They present a variety of programs including one on the school referendum in October and one on “Move to Amend” in January.
- v. Currently they are main sponsors of the “Great Decisions” programs at the library on Mondays at 6:00pm for February and March.
- vi. They also study issues such as the Mental Health Study that produced a report in 2013.
- vii. Their Committee evolved into a community effort – the Mental Health Wellness Coalition that continues.
- viii. Currently the National and State LWV are focusing on water resources, which the local chapter will begin to do as well.
- ix. More information is available on their website.

IV. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 03.03.15, beginning at 4:00pm at the City Hall, Planning/Engineering Conference Room (West.)

V. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm