

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY HALL, PLANNING/ENGINEERING CONFERENCE ROOM (WEST)
Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Mary Balte, Linda Hunter, June Kramer, Tony Mack, Gloria Wallace

Excused: Alderperson Chris Able, Grace Brandl, Anne Marie Wood

Guest(s): Dave Remiker, Andy Beck, Adraina Gomez, Marissa Sorge, Neal Li

Minutes: Submitted by Linda Hunter

- I. Meeting called to order at 4:00pm
- II. City Update from Mayor Justin Nickels
 - a. 2016 Budget
 - i. Mayor Nickels will request a slightly lower amount for borrowing than we are paying off. The overall debt is to stay about the same; however, we have cut \$25 million in debt in six years.
 - ii. Money will be needed to cover the Newton Gravel Pit issues (\$1.2 million), Dewey Street repairs (\$1.5 million), and the Mirro building tear-down and abatement of toxic materials (\$2.4 million). This will result in a small tax increase of 1.95%, about \$15 per year on a \$100,000 house, equivalent to last year's.
 - iii. There will be no layoffs, and increased personnel costs in each department will be covered.
 - iv. A building inspector and a police officer will be added; a city electrician and city attorney will be made full-time.
 - v. Downtown proposal includes garbage and recycling cans, bike racks, an ice skating rink, new welcome signs, and a parking plan study (\$80,000).
 - vi. A kiosk will be added at the library for information about the city.
 - vii. Due to state regulations, no department can have an increase without funds being taken from other departments.
 - viii. The Lakeshore Mall will be demolished by the end of the year, and the area will be a TIF district. Half of the area will be developed by the present owner; the other half will be residential.
- III. Guest Speaker – Dave Remiker and Andy Beck from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Dept Metro Drug Unit
 - a. The unit includes 2 police from Manitowoc, 1 from Two Rivers, and 2 from the Sheriff's department. It is a multi-jurisdictional force. It is supported financially by a \$24,000 grant. It also includes a part-time analyst and a DEA agent who works out of Green Bay.
 - b. The Metro Drug Unit Board includes 3 police chiefs, the District attorney, and the sheriff.
 - c. Drug seizures provide the financing for their equipment including body wires, cars, etc.
 - d. They focus on mid to upper level cases. Remiker has spent 12 years working in narcotics, and he says the problem is the worst he has seen. Crystal meth and heroin are the biggest problems. Their goal is to control the demand rather than the supply. Big city supplies do not want to come here because of the strong law enforcement.

- e. He showed the committee a large container of needles found at 20th and Clark, as well as pictures of drug paraphernalia collected recently in our area. Needles contaminated with HIV and Hepatitis C has been found in Schuette Park.
- f. The cost of needles getting into the wrong hands is a serious problem. The AIDS Resource Center will deliver safe needles and syringes, but the users do not necessarily give back an equivalent number of needles.
- g. Approximate 90% of crimes to obtain money are drug related.
- h. Solutions:(1) have receptacles available for needle disposal in confidential locations; (2) maintain vigorous law enforcement, prosecution, and sentencing; (3) make treatment center available (none in the county);(4) and educate the community about the problems, especially young people.

IV. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 11.10.15, beginning at 4:00pm at the City Hall – Planning/Engineering Conference Room (West), 900 Quay Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220.

V. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm