



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CITY HALL, First Floor Conference Room West

Tuesday, November 6th, 2018 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Alderperson Rhienna Gabriel, Dan Becker, Janet Breuer, Theresa Collins, June Kramer, Ralph Kramer, Ken Sitkiewitz, Mayor Justin Nickels, and Ben Stalvey

Absent: Mary Balte, Erin Schultz, Joanne Vogds, Gloria Wallace, and Anna Marie Wood

Minutes: Theresa Collins, Secretary

- I. Call meeting to order
 - a. Meeting was called to order by Ken Sitkiewitz at 4:02 p.m.
- II. Approval of October Meeting Minutes
 - a. Section III: "Letters to the Editor are currently not being posted" amended to "Letters to the Editor are currently only being posted in print, not online"
 - b. Approved with revision
- III. Review of Committee Member Information
 - a. Of the 15 people listed, there are only 9 that continually come on a normal basis.
 - b. Any citizen can go to the city's website and view the minutes online
 - c. Ken will discuss with Stacey how to get ahold of the inactive committee members to determine whether or not they would like to be an active member or just get the updates from the minutes posted online. June suggested we give inactive members a deadline to let us know if they are interested in participating.
 - d. We will table this until the next meeting and Ken will report back what his finding is on who has been attending regularly and who has been excessively absent
- IV. Community Update by Mayor Justin Nickels / Suggestions to Mayor and Council
 - a. City Budget
 - i. In front of Finance Committee now
 1. Downtown façade grant program; 50/50 match; owner pays 100% up front, then will be reimbursed; this will be managed by Community Development
 2. Property tax rate will go up about \$6 per year
 3. Recommending a \$20 wheel tax; \$20 fee on every vehicle you own; collectors and motorcycles are exempt, large trucks are exempt; could get about 30,000 vehicles, we are budgeting for 20,000 vehicles; this would eliminate any road assessments to citizens
 4. Positions

- a. Department of Public Infrastructure
 - i. Laborers more dedicated to parks
 - 1. In 2010 there were 65 full time positions; today we have 31; we have cut back drastically and are trying to come back from this
 - ii. We used to have 5 full time positions in parks, today we have one; we are asking for another full time position
 - iii. Will not likely be many more positions
- 5. Capital projects
 - a. Recommended \$2.5M in asphalt to bring us back up; We have \$25M in concrete roads that need to be redone
 - b. Newton gravel pit will have some large expenditures
 - c. Mirro site will need to be cleaned up
 - d. Recommended a higher amount in the budget this year to start this conversation about how we are going to catch up
 - e. \$1.2M in parks
 - f. We were at \$76M in 2009 in overall city debt; we are at \$50M today
- b. Schuette building will hopefully be done by end of 2019; about a 15 month build
- c. We have 6 businesses looking for land in the industrial park
 - i. Metalware, Dowco (Redline Plastics), Manitowoc Tool & Machining, Hamann Construction
- d. Briess is continuing to build downtown as well
- e. There is a good prospect for the Manitowoc Company building
- f. Lakeside Foods is continuing their expansion on S 30th St.
- g. In December the Council will hopefully approve the Downtown Master Plan
- h. We are looking at repairs to the Farmers Market lot next year; we are adding some green space and parking
 - i. Met with Grow It Forward; they will not get any City funding in 2019; Grow It Forward will continue to manage the Farmers Market and the City will continue to have less to do with it; much better outlook for Grow It Forward; their new board is a positive thing
- i. Waldo and Rapids will start repairs in 2019

V. Diversity Discussion

- a. We would like to recruit committee members of all cultures, beyond just age and gender diversity
- b. We should all reach out to diverse members of the community who would be a good fit for the committee

VI. Article in HTR Discussion (Guest Column)

- a. It was discussed in the last meeting that we could write a monthly letter to the HTR with an update
- b. In the upcoming article we could incorporate recruitment for diverse committee members
- c. For the next meeting, we should each jot down what we think this committee is all about, and we will compile our ideas for our first article to the paper, which will be more of an introduction about our community

VII. Committee Member Discussion

VIII. Adjournment – 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting 12/04/18 at 4 p.m. in First Floor Conference Room West