

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, June 17, 2013
(Open/Closed/Open Session)

Committee of the Whole met at City Hall on Monday, June 17, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.
at City Hall in the First Floor Hearing Room – East.

Present: Alderpersons Dave Soeldner (*arrived at 5:07 p.m.*), Jim Brey, Allan Schema, Mike Howe (*arrived at 5:05 p.m.*), Jason Sladky, Scott McMeans, Eric Sitkiewitz, Tyler Martell and Jill Hennessey and Mayor Justin M. Nickels.

Absent: Alderperson Christopher Able.

Also present: City Attorney Straun Boston, HR Generalist Jeri Johnson, City Planner David Less, Deputy City Planner Paul Braun, Associate Planner Michelle Yanda, Building Inspector Rick Schwarz, Lisa Mueller, Secretary, Building/Planning, Deputy Fire Chief Todd Blaser, MAVCB President Jason Ring, Deputy City Clerk Deborah Neuser and news media.

Council President Jill Hennessey called the meeting to order at 5:00.

No persons appeared for public input.

Chairperson Hennessey called for an update on the room tax revenues and expenditures and how the room tax revenues are distributed, especially the extra 2% that was approved last year.

Mayor Nickels referred to spreadsheet of the 2013 room tax expenditures per each of the three designations of the current room tax resolution.

It was noted that the main reason for the 2% increase in the room tax last year was for the MAVCB to hire a sales manager. Per MAVCB President Jason Ring, the sales manager is on staff now and his task is to turn contacts into bookings.

Discussion continued as to whether the Council would have oversight of the extra 2% room tax and be approving each specific request for grant money.

Moving forward the Mayor will bring forth an amendment to the room tax resolution and then look at the services agreement.

Next committee discussed the direction, rules, responsibilities and staffing of the Planning Office with respect to City economic development activities. Items included in the discussion were restructuring the department and possibly changing the name of the Planning Department to Community Development, working with the EDC to take the pressure off of the Planning Department and help manage, succession planning of department including roles and responsibilities and moving forward with what the department would look like in the future, and creating a separate department to handle economic development.

Noting that the department is bogged down, some felt that the Planning Department should not be handling industrial loans or the Farmer's Market. Efforts should be to market our City. City Planner David Less stated that the City should not give up industrial loans as it is a valuable capital tool to support business growth.

Aldersperson Brey stated there have been many successes in the Planning Department. The Committee's consensus was that they are willing to continue this discussion.

Council President Hennessey then announced that notice is hereby given that the above governmental body will adjourn to a closed session during the meeting as authorized by Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes, which authorizes the governmental body to convene in closed session for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

The specific subject matter which will be considered in the closed session is the following: Discussion and possible action on compensation or performance of Planning Department employees.

It was moved by Mayor Nickels, seconded by Alderperson Sladky, and carried on roll call to convene in closed session. Ayes, 8. Nays, 2. (*Alderpersons Brey and Hennessey voting nay*).

CONVENED IN CLOSED SESSION

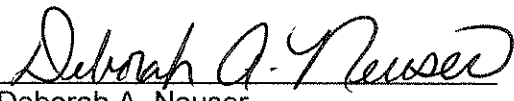
(Redacted - - Closed Session)

Moved by Alderperson Sladky, seconded by Alderperson Schema and unanimously carried on roll call to reconvene in open session. Ayes, 10. Nays, None.

Alderperson Brey stated he welcomes future deliberation over whether the \$68,000 we give to the EDC should be used for the City's own Economic Development Department.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Alderperson Jill Hennessey, Chairperson
Committee of the Whole

By: 
Deborah A. Neuser
Deputy City Clerk

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