MINUTES

Present (11): Mayor Justin Nickels, Courtney Pelot, Theresa Collins, June Kramer, Ralph Kramer, Ken Sitkiewitz, Ben Stalvey, Daniel Becker, Joanne Vogds, Staate Hayward, Katherym Feo Rodriguez

Absent (5): Janet Breuer, Ngu Devin Tita, Anna Marie Wood, Jennifer Estrada (excused), Mary Balte (excused)

Guest (1): Vicki Seehafer (Downtown Manitowoc)

Minutes: Theresa Collins, Secretary

I. Call meeting to order
   a. Meeting was called to order by Ken Sitkiewitz at 4:00 p.m.

II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes
   a. Passed unanimously without change.

III. Community Update from Mayor Nickels
   a. Dog park at Halvorson should be open by the end of the month, fenced in with a large dog and a small dog section.
   b. Road construction
      i. Just closed Rapids again; from Calumet/151 to Crawford Blvd; closed for next month and a half
      ii. Waldo should be open by the end of October
   c. Downtown
      i. Will be putting in lighting from Farmers Market to Car ferry
      ii. Bud bottles are being covered by current owners
      iii. Façades being updated
         1. Pizza Garden (by end of year)
         2. Attorney office on 8th street (by end of year)
   d. Budget being presented to council on 21st of this month (a few anomalies in this budget)
      i. Debt service going up
      ii. Workers comp went up
      iii. Large number for borrowing, road projects, equipment, parks, etc. (borrowing about $6M)
iv. Large expenditure in the Elks Club property, TIF funded debt, not considered overall city debt ($4M project)

v. $4.5M from an old community development block grant. Federal government is requiring the money to be sent back, but they are allowing cities to buy funds back. We can possibly buy this out with projects and get that money back essentially for free. We could use dollars to start our own revolving loan fund with much fewer strings attached.

vi. Discussion around the Mayor holding listening sessions prior to the completion of the first draft of the budget. This not something that is currently done, but could be an option in the future. The Mayor currently gathers information from constituents throughout the year which contributes to his budget decisions.

e. Mark Holzman and Mayor Nickels will be meeting with the City of Appleton representatives to follow up with last month’s committee topics.

f. Schuette Building on track for end of the year

g. Parking

i. Discussion regarding the only overnight public parking (besides leased) available during snow emergencies is in the Farmers Market lot. The only other option is to lease from the city or other private property owners. You do not need to move your car in city leased parking spots. The cost is just $200 per year, which is just over $16 per month, and is very competitive pricing.

IV. Presentation from Vickie Seehafer of Downtown Manitowoc

a. Vicki is president of Downtown Manitowoc group since about mid-May

b. The “downtown” now means anyone with an interest in downtown, not just people who live, work, and own business/property in the downtown area. There are member businesses from outside of the downtown area. They have dropped the definition of downtown.

c. First Wednesday of each month the Board of Directors meets; the 2nd Wednesday of each month is the Members meeting. They used to be at 8 a.m., but now held at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. Now they are all in the Balkanski Room at the Library because there are so many people coming to meetings. There are socials held after every monthly membership meeting except during the holiday season. This change has been in effect since June.

d. The city is very involved now; they have representation at every single membership meeting.

e. Every business in attendance has an opportunity to talk about their business.

f. There have been 7 new people at the last 2 meetings; 16 new members since June. You can come into a meeting twice before we hand you an application. It is $100 per year to be a member.

g. They have began organizing committees to take over certain events rather than putting everything on just a few people.

h. Now have 70 members with potential for many more.

i. All community events can now be shared in one place, on one community calendar. Revamped website and facebook page.

j. Manitowoc Marina has recently become a part of the organization, and they will be collaborating with Courthouse Pub to host the next social.

k. Business Improvement District has not been brought up in recent meetings.

l. Citizens Advisory Committee members are invited to attend any meetings.

V. Adjournment – 5:16 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday 11/05/19 at 4 p.m. in First Floor Conference Room West