

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Thursday, December 1, 2011
(Open Session)

Committee of the Whole met at City Hall on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in the First Floor Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Justin M. Nickels, Alderpersons Jason Sladky, Dave Soeldner, Allan Schema, Collin Braunel, Jill Hennessey, James Brey, Scott McMeans, Alex Olson and Christopher Able.

Absent: Alderperson Matt Kadow.

Also present: Deputy City Clerk Deborah Neuser. Many department heads, city employees and news media were in the audience.

Council President Able called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Chairman Able declared the meeting open for public input. In accordance with policy, the public input portion of the meeting is not made a part of the official record.

Moved by McMeans, second by Olson, and unanimously carried to adjust the budget by \$399,153 for special assessments to the debt service. Ayes, 10. Nays, none.

Moved by Mayor Nickels, second by Alderperson Schema to remove \$150,000.00 of the bonding for Red Arrow Park and move to Citizen Park. Discussion followed.

Moved by Brey, second by Hennessey, to amend the amendment to eliminate \$290,000.00 from the Red Arrow portion of our bonding for next year.

Discussion followed regarding the amendment.

Alderperson Able seeing nothing further, called the question on the amendment to remove the entire bonding for Red Arrow Park completely from the budget as part of the original proposal which was to remove \$150,000.00 of the bonding. Ayes, 5. Nays, 5. Motion fails.

Discussion then continued on the original motion. Alderperson McMeans offered

a friendly amendment to change the Friends group target date from December 31, 2012 to June 30, 2012. Mayor would like some flexibility but agreed to the friendly amendment. Ayes, 9. Nays, 1. Motion carried.

Moved by Mayor Nickels, second by Alderperson Schema, to make 4.5 Million in cuts to the General Fund and add 2 Million in Revenues in order to balance the 2012 Budget. Mayor distributed handouts and reviewed the proposed additional revenues and personnel changes.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Moved by Alderperson Hennessey to offer a friendly amendment to change the Mayor's Assistant position from full time to part time. Second by Alderperson Olson. Discussion followed.

Alderperson Able called the question amending this proposal to include cutting the funding for the Mayor's Assistant in half. Ayes, 6. Nays, 4. Motion to amend carried.

A lengthy discussion followed on the original motion being the Mayor's proposals on revenues and operations.

Moved by Alderperson Brey, seconded by Alderperson Schema, to amend the Mayor's proposal to remove the revenue stream of \$1,589,552 in stormwater fees. Ayes, 6. Nays, 4. Motion to amend carried.

Discussion followed on the original motion, as amended.

Moved by Alderperson Brey to remove \$50,000 snow and ice removal overtime. Per Mayor Nickels this item is included in his proposal. Alderperson Brey withdrew his motion.

Mayor Nickels went through his proposal line by line and answered questions.

Moved by Alderperson Hennessey to amend the Mayor's proposal to increase the deductible for police patrol, police supervisors, firefighters and fire supervisors from the current deductible \$600 for single and \$1,200 for family to \$1,500 for single and

\$3,000 for family which would result in a savings to the City of \$111,131.00. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Vote on the original motion, as amended: Ayes, 4. Nays, 6. Motion failed.

Moved by Alderperson McMeans, second by Mayor Nickels, and unanimously carried to amend the Mayor's proposal to increase the revenue line related to seal coating assessment by \$51,000 and change the ordinance to reflect that assessed rates will be based on actual expenditures including annual bid results and related labor material and equipment costs. Ayes, 10. Nays, none.

Moved by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Braunel, to remove 1.171 Million from the stormwater line in the current budget. Ayes, 8. Nays, 2.

Discussion followed relating to the shared services models.

Chairperson Able announced that this means that the budget from Committee of the Whole will be forwarded to Council for approval with a 2-1/2 Million Dollar deficit in it on Monday evening.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Alderperson Christopher Able, Chairperson
Committee of the Whole

By: _____
Deborah A. Neuser
Deputy City Clerk