



## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**CITY HALL, Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, November 5th, 2019 at 4:00 PM**

### **MINUTES**

Present (8): Mayor Justin Nickels, Alderwoman Courtney Pelot, Mary Balte, Janet Breuer, Staate Hayward, June Kramer, Ralph Kramer, and Ben Stalvey

Absent (8): Daniel Becker (Excused), Theresa Collins (Excused), Jennifer Estrada (Excused), Katherym Feo Rodriguez, Ken Sitkiewitz (Excused), Ngu Devin Tita, Joanne Vogds, and Anna Marie Wood

Minutes: Stacey Groll, Assistant to the Mayor

- I. Call meeting to order
  - a. Meeting was called to order by Stacey Groll at 4:00 p.m.
- II. Approval of October Meeting Minutes
  - a. Passed unanimously without change.
- III. Budget Highlights from Mayor Nickels
  - a. Debt
    - i. Down \$27.5M in debt over the past 10 years
    - ii. At the end of 2020, it's projected that the City will have \$48.5M in debt
    - iii. Plan is to pay off \$7 - \$7.5M in debt each year for 5 years
    - iv. Plan is to borrow \$6M per year (for streets, traffic signals, and the like)
  - b. Employees
    - i. Addition of 1 full-time Community Development Administrative Assistant position
    - ii. Addition of 1 full-time Community Service Worker (CSW) for the Manitowoc Police Department
    - iii. Addition of 1 full-time Parks Director – focused on volunteers and grants
    - iv. Pay plan for employees is full-funded
  - c. Taxes
    - i. The increase Mayor Nickels has proposed is a \$23 increase per year per \$100,000 home
    - ii. A 1% tax increase equates to \$150,000 in revenue for the City of Manitowoc
  - d. Capital Projects
    - i. \$16.5M in proposed capital projects
    - ii. TIF District at Elk's Club – new road, adding trails, moving sewer
  - e. Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)
    - i. Federal and State government requires stopping that program and paying it back
    - ii. City can buy out the debt from the existing revolving loans and start their own revolving loan fund

- f. Downtown
  - i. More trees
  - ii. Re-doing one intersection; likely S. 8<sup>th</sup> and Quay
  - iii. Projecting sign grant
  - iv. Continuing façade grant program
  - v. Re-configuring intersection at N. 5<sup>th</sup>/Maritime Dr./Buffalo
  - vi. Restroom at Blue Rail Beach
  - vii. New docking between the Cobia and the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge
  - viii. Art/Murals/Sculpture
    - 1. Badger Sculpture on Quay
    - 2. Washington Park signage
    - 3. Lighting Briess lot to the Carferry
    - 4. Lighting the Cobia from the south side of the river so those driving over the bridge can see it
    - 5. Lighting along the walkway behind the Baymont
- g. Railroad Crossings
- h. Wayfinding Signage

#### IV. Hmong Presentation

- a. June Kramer, Stacey Groll, and the Mayor's Office Intern Meagan Geppert, recently attended a presentation by Commanding General Charles Hang, and his colleague Lang Xiong of the Hmong American Friendship Association
- b. Presentation was very informational in regard to the mental health crisis the culture is currently experiencing, the opioid epidemic, as well as general facts about the Hmong culture that aren't necessarily widely known
- c. June proposed that the Citizens Advisory Committee hold this same event on an evening in Spring in Council Chambers, similar to the event hosted by the Committee last year for the political debate
- d. The committee members present agreed unanimously that they'd like to host this event in February or April 2020, and would like to assist the speakers by using our means to promote and advertise the event
- e. Conversation was also had about holding a Hispanic presentation similar to this in the future as well

#### V. Other

- a. June Kramer inquired about the state of the Senior Center, as they have experienced some turn-over recently
  - i. Mayor Nickels assured June and the committee that a new Park and Recreation Team Leader has been hired (Curt Hall), and the Administrative Assistant position is going to be filled
- b. Ben Stalvey inquired about the amount of sheet wall that will be necessary at the CN Peninsula site, and how much of that could be funded by grants
  - i. Mayor Nickels explained that they're unsure how much will be required right now, and that grant funding will be sought from State and Federal sources
- c. Ralph Kramer inquired about the idea he recently heard about in regard to a City Manager
  - i. Mayor Nickels explained the differences between the two (Mayor vs City Manager)

#### VI. Adjournment – 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday 12/03/19 at 4 p.m. in First Floor Conference Room West