

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 - 6:30 PM
CITY HALL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Council President Kupsik called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Kupsik.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Chappell, Wall, Kordus, Gelting, Kupsik, Hedlund, Howell. Absent: Alderman Hill. Also present: City Administrator Oborn and Mayor Connors.

Kordus/Wall motion for approval of minutes from August 3, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting as distributed. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), except for public hearing items.

Mary Jo Fesenmaier, 955 George Street, thanked Alderman Kupsik for putting the budget item on tonight's agenda as was requested by the citizens. She read the City's mission statement, "To preserve its small city atmosphere, reasonable cost of living and high quality of life by carefully controlling land use and development and delivering high quality programs and services in a responsible manner." She stated this is what the actions of the Council should reflect. They are here to bring out the positive in the community. The budget is an important document that guides the work of the City, and it is important citizens have input at the beginning. She was hoping citizens could have a more interactive process in the beginning to allow for proposals and questions. She noted at the school board meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the comprehensive plan change. She hoped the item would not be pushed through at the Council meeting on September 14. She would like people to give multiple solutions. She said Hillmoor will be discussed on October 19 and citizens will try to save that property. She hopes Council will listen to their input.

Terry O'Neill, 954 George Street, noted the tax increment financing is not included on the pie chart that was displayed on the projector at the meeting. It is part of the tax bill paid by taxpayers. It would be the fifth largest item on the bill. He explained it is divided among all of the bills. He hopes next year if a pie chart is put out, it reflects the TIF being part of what the property tax goes to.

Maureen Marks, 834 Dodge Street, brought a copy of the National Historic Maple Park application for anyone to view. The building at 833 Wisconsin Street is listed as a contributing structure to the district. She stated many school board members and city officials have said the building is not a contributing structure. If the Council would vote no to changing the comprehensive plan and no to a zoning change, the business and commercial development to the east will never be able to encroach on the historic district. There would not be spot zoning and parking lots interspersed within the district. SR4 zoning was put in place 25 years ago. The existing apartment buildings were built between 1960 and 1975, and all were grandfathered. She noted the drainage at the proposed site is inadequate, and caused both Wisconsin Street and Cook Street to flood. She stressed to please vote no on the parking lot.

Charlene Klein, 817 Wisconsin Street, stated she just came from the school board meeting and addressed them regarding the proposed parking lot at 833 Wisconsin Street. She has been observing the process of drop offs and pickups in the morning before school starts and at the end of the day. Many teachers had explained at various meetings of the parking issues and concern for child safety. Ms. Klein said she has not seen a problem at all. Everyone was dropped off or picked up within a matter of 10 minutes. She went this morning to see how it would be on a very rainy day the morning after a holiday. There were more cars lined up and down the street, but the whole process was very orderly and there was not any congestion on the street. She said the parking lot will not affect child drop off or pickup in any way. She also commented on the Hillmoor property. She suggested if the City were to own Hillmoor, they could put in a visitor's center. It would filter traffic off of Hwy 50. She believes there is property that runs somewhere near Eastview School that could be used for a path for shuttle buses. She questioned why the shuttle buses were not running this past weekend.

Pete Peterson, 1601 Evergreen Lane, said he likes the idea that the Administrator is going to lay out his plans for next year's budget. He feels this meeting should be an open session to allow for questions from the public. He was upset about the \$6 million dollar accounting error. Mr. Peterson felt over the last 15 years money that was used to maintain the

Riviera and piers was taken from the TIF. He suggested a corporation similar to the Water Department be implemented. The City needs to put money aside for all of the different construction projects that are going to take place. He felt the size of the Police Department should be evaluated as it is too big. The Department used to be run by a Chief, Captain, and a couple of Sergeants. He felt a department this large should not be controlled by people that are not elected. The City's Police and Fire Commission is one of the few in the state that has optional powers. Necessary steps should be taken to start the procedure to eliminate that.

City Administrator presentation on overview of 2015 Budget and 2016 Budget Development Timeline and Goals

City Administrator Oborn noted a major share of the City is the Police, Street and Fire Departments. The rate has been held flat at 6.04 for the last 2 years. He explained property value is expected to increase for 2016. Alderman Kordus questioned why residential was listed twice under the top ten tax payer section. Mayor Connors clarified these are two individual residences and are listed as such rather than giving the taxpayer's name. Mr. Oborn continued by stating equalized value went up \$17.2 million dollars, which is a 1.48% increase. He explained the new hotel room tax bill won't take effect until 2017, which means the City will have to provide more money to the Tourist Association. The \$3.00 resident beach pass fee was newly added to the 2015 budget. To date \$21,500 was collected in new revenue. His goal is not to touch any of the parking fees or the beach pass fee as residents were not pleased with the changes. He would like to look at other revenue sources. The City has a debt service payment of almost \$900,000 that goes down. We are on a 3 year borrowing schedule. We try to keep the payment flat at about \$1.1 million dollars a year. There will be a lot of discussion on the tax incremental financing district coming forward. Mr. Oborn made a pie chart and reviewed what the chart showed. He noted the goals have been updated. He said he will be evaluating cost allocation between funds as he does not think funds are being billed correctly. Mr. Oborn stated he is welcome to speak with anyone individually about the budget.

Standing Committee Reports given:

Finance, License & Regulation Committee, Alderman Kupsik
Personnel Committee, Alderman Hedlund
Public Works Committee, Alderman Kordus
Piers, Harbors, & Lakefront Committee, Alderman Wall
Board of Review Committee, Alderman Gelting

Committee, Commission and Board Reports given:

Utility Commission, Alderman Hedlund
Tree Board, Alderman Kupsik
Police & Fire Commission, Alderman Gelting
Plan Commission, Alderman Kupsik
Board of Park Commissioners, Alderman Kupsik
Library Board, no report given
Historic Preservation Commission, no report given
Cemetery Commission, Alderman Kordus
Parking Commission, Alderman Gelting
Communications Committee, Alderman Kordus
Avian Committee, Alderman Wall

Other Boards and Committee Reports given:

Chamber of Commerce, Alderman Kordus
Geneva Lake Museum, no report given
Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Aldermen Gelting & Hedlund
Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Alderman Wall
Geneva Lakes Family YMCA, Alderman Kupsik
Geneva Lake Use Committee, no report given

Kordus/Wall motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried 6 to 0.

/s/ Stephanie Gunderson, Assistant City Clerk

THESE ARE NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE