



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BELOIT CITY COUNCIL

100 State Street, Beloit WI 53511

City Hall Forum – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 19, 2015

Presiding: Charles M. Haynes
Present: Sheila De Forest, Regina Hendrix, Ana Kelly, Chuck Kincaid, David F. Luebke, Marilyn Sloniker
Absent: None

1. President Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum at Beloit City Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Interim Chief of Police Zibolski announced that City of Beloit **Trick or Treating Hours** on Saturday, October 31st are from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. He also invited the community to attend the Downtown Beloit parade and party from 10:00am-1:00pm. Chief Zibolski stressed the importance of safety first and encouraged parents to make sure their children are well supervised, dressed so they can be seen in traffic and are cautious to follow all pedestrian rules.
 - b. The Wisconsin APWA President, Carl Weber, representing the National American Public Works Association presented the “**Professional Manager of the Year Award** - Public Works Emergency Management” to Chris Walsh, City of Beloit Director of Operations.
 - c. Councilor De Forest presented a proclamation declaring October 25-31, 2015, as **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**. Director of Community and Housing Services, Teri Downing received the proclamation and shared some information on dealing with Lead in homes. File 7148
 - d. Councilor De Forest presented a proclamation declaring October 15, 2015, as **White Cane Safety Day**. Justin Lemke, Education, Marketing and Administrative Assistant for the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired and one other was present to receive this proclamation. File 7148
4. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - a. Community Development Director Julie Christensen presented the **2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Proposed Budget, 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, and 2016 Annual Action Plan**. President Haynes opened the public hearing. Jim Van De Bogart and Ellen Wiggen, Executive Director of the local Meals on Wheels, spoke in favor of the \$5,000 recommended distribution. No one else spoke. President Haynes closed the public hearing. File 8701
 - b. Community Development Director Julie Christensen presented the **2016 HOME Investment Partnerships Proposed Budget**. President Haynes opened the public hearing. No one spoke. President Haynes closed the public hearing. File 8695
 - c. Finance and Administrative Services Director, Eric Miller presented the **2016 Operating, Library, and Capital Improvements Proposed Budgets**. (available for review at www.beloitwi.gov) President Haynes opened the public hearing. No one spoke. President Haynes closed the public hearing. File 8695
5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
 - Dorothy Harrell, Elm Street, Beloit addressed the council as the President of the Beloit Chapter of the NAACP. She stated concerns for the reputations of Chief Norm Jacobs and Deputy Chief

Tom Duncan and said that there are two sides to every story and it is time to hear the other side of the story through a fair and just hearing with the PFC, who is the trier of fact. She asked the council personally to refrain from statements about the character of these men without fact and stated that she did not feel it was appropriate for the interim chief of police to be a part of the body at the press conference.

- Dr. Dennis Baskin, 1768 Gateway Blvd, #614, Beloit addressed the council in response to his appearance to comment at the October 5th council meeting. He said that he did not one time reference race as a part of his testimony on October 5th, rather he stated that Chief Norm Jacobs and Deputy Chief Tom Duncan were members of the NAACP and that he was troubled that these individuals who have stellar careers were walked out of their offices after having their badges and guns taken from them. He said that he is a public official and the Vice President of the Beloit Chapter of the NAACP, but was appearing as a citizen who tosses and turns at night at the thought of how these gentlemen were treated. He knows there are two sides to every story and he looks forward to hear their vigorous defense so he can make up his own mind about these allegations. In the meantime he urges fair treatment of these individuals.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor De Forest asked to have item 6.d removed from the consent agenda. Councilors Luebke and Kincaid made a motion to adopt consent Agenda items 6.a through 6.c and items 6.e through 6.f. Motion carried, voice vote.

- a. The **Minutes** of the Special Meeting of September 28 and Regular Meeting and Special Meeting of October 5, 2015 were approved.
- b. A resolution approving a **Class “B” Beer and “Class B” Liquor License** for Copper Ivy LLC, d/b/a The Tavern, located at 1567 Madison Road was approved. File 8688
- c. A resolution approving **“Class A” Liquor Licenses (cider only)** for License Period July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 was approved. File 8688
- e. An application for a **Conditional Use Permit** to open a church holding religious services in an R-1B, Single-Family Residential District, for the property located at 1503 St Lawrence Avenue was referred to Plan Commission. File 8339
- f. A resolution awarding the **Public Works Contract C15-21 - Rock River Bank Armoring** was approved. File 8702
- d. City Clerk Stottler presented a resolution approving **Class “A” Beer License** for Park Avenue Mart, Inc., d/b/a Park Avenue Mart, Harjinder Samra, Agent, located at 1771 Park Avenue. She explained that this license was recommended by the Alcohol Beverage License Control Committee on a vote of 6-0 and provided impact study results to the councilors. Councilor De Forest expressed appreciation for receiving information from the neighborhood impact study which shared input about the granting of this license. She also expressed general reservations about the granting of liquor licenses in vulnerable neighborhoods but would be voting in favor out of fairness regardless of the location. Councilors Hendrix and De Forest made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion Carried, voice vote. File 8688

7. ORDINANCES - None

8. APPOINTMENTS - None

9. COUNCILOR ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Councilor Hendrix shared that these are busy times and mentioned the productive Budget Workshop. She also invited the public to attend the upcoming listening session at Merrill Elementary on October 20 and the grand opening of the Barbara Hickman Fine Arts Center at Fruzen Intermediate School on October 21. She is looking forward to taking her daughter trick or treating.
- Councilor Sloniker said she attended the SLATS meeting today and learned that the Prairie Avenue construction project is slated to be completed before Thanksgiving between Beloit and Janesville, with the other part completed in the spring.

- Councilor Kelly attended the social event at the Tallman House with the Janesville City Council and had a great time.
- Councilor Luebke shared that he went to the Beloit Historical Society event where six “Beloiters” were honored for their service to Beloit, one of whom is still living – Gene Van Galder.
- Councilor De Forest enjoyed the discussion over the budget at the recent Budget Workshop. She appreciated the joint function with the Janesville City Council at the Tallman House. She attended the Stop the Violence arts expo this past weekend and felt it was a fantastic event. She publicly thanked Robert Clark for organizing the event.
- Councilor Kincaid looks forward to further discussion of the 550+ page budget at the next meeting.
- President Haynes is looking forward to the intensive survey of the Landmarks Commission that is coming up next week at the public library.

10. CITY MANAGER’S PRESENTATION

- a. Director of Transit, Michelle Gavin introduced James Gamez from Nelson Nygaard who presented the **Beloit Transit Development Plan** (TDP). Ms. Gavin explained that this is a SLATS MPO funded project and the plan is a culmination of more than a year of study. She said that there is no need for action this evening, but at the next meeting, the council will be asked to accept the plan and from there she will be holding public hearings and other activities to roll out this plan. The full plan is available from the Beloit City Clerk’s office at 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511.

An extensive outreach effort engaged the community and helped determine the needs and preferences of customers. This phase of the project included customer surveys administered on buses and then made available online, interviews conducted with BTS bus operators, discussions with community stakeholders, and open house public meetings held at the Beloit Transfer Center and Beloit Public Library.

The following comments were expressed throughout the community engagement process:

- Later service is needed for employees with evening/night shifts
- The cost of transit fares is an issue for many customers
- Existing service is reliable yet inconvenient in terms of speed and directness
- Opportunities exist to improve route and schedule information

Information obtained throughout the community engagement effort was utilized by the consultant team to refine service alternatives and develop final recommendations.

Findings from the comprehensive service evaluation and community engagement effort were summarized in an existing conditions report that served as a basis for service recommendations. Service recommendations are divided into two categories:

- Route design improvements (Phase 1)
- System service expansion (Phase 2-5)

Route design improvements include a series of changes that improve service to major destinations, such as Eclipse Center, Beloit Public Library, Walmart, Beloit Memorial High School, Beloit Learning Academy, Beloit Clinic, and Beloit Memorial Hospital. Route improvements are intended to reduce out-of-direction travel and simplify service for existing and potential customers. Recommendations also seek to focus service along major corridors and high ridership residential areas to maximize the efficient use of limited resources. Route changes are a significant departure from existing loop-route system yet are cost-neutral in terms of revenue hours and peak vehicles.

System expansion recommendations are intended to build upon restructure recommendations and require additional funding. System expansion recommendations include the extension of weekday operating hours, increased Saturday service, the addition of Sunday service, and a potential partnership with regional entities to implement a new route connecting Beloit, to urbanized areas of northern Winnebago County, and Rockford.

The City of Beloit Comprehensive Plan is supportive of transit and includes the following policy: "Continue to promote the use of the City's bus system and explore new bus routes to serve future development and existing developed areas which are underserved."

In an effort to meet these goals and conduct a comprehensive evaluation of existing BTS service, a Transit Development Plan (TDP) was initiated in November 2014. The TDP will cover the five year planning horizon from 2016-2020 and updates the 2011 TDP developed by BTS staff.

The Beloit TDP will serve as a blueprint for improving bus service and expanding BTS in a logical and cost-effective manner as funding becomes available. Recommendations included in this report are expected to:

- Increase customer satisfaction by reducing transfers and travel time
- Attract new riders by simplifying routes and expanding schedules
- Improve access to jobs, education, and shopping destinations
- Make efficient use of limited BTS resources by reallocating service to high demand areas
- Enhance operational safety and improve customer access at key boarding locations
- Set BTS on a path for sustainable growth and increased community support

Mr. Gamez concluded his report by taking questions from the council. File 4410

11. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND CITY OFFICERS

- a. Finance and Administrative Services Director, Eric Miller presented a resolution authorizing the application and borrowing of up to \$200,000 from the State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands State Trust Fund Loan Program for projects contained in the **2015 Capital Improvement Budget**. He explained that as part of the financing plan for the 2015 Capital Improvement Budget, the property acquisition and demolition project was identified for funding through a loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands State Trust Fund Loan Program. The loan would be in an amount not to exceed \$200,000. The loan will be for a term of 10 years at the current rate of 3.25% and payments will begin on March 15, 2016. Councilors Luebke and Sloniker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried, voice vote. File 8649
- b. Public Works Director Greg Boysen presented a final resolution authorizing **Sanitary Sewer System Improvements and Levying Special Assessments** against 3155 Prairie Avenue, Beloit WI. He explained that this project will extend an 8" sanitary sewer along Inman Parkway starting approximately 500' east of Prairie Avenue continuing east for 664' to serve 3155 Prairie Ave. He said that Council approved the preliminary resolution of special assessment for this project on September 21, 2015. Engineering staff prepared plans and estimates as directed in the preliminary resolution of special assessment. James Hamilton of Prairie Avenue, LLC signed a waiver of special assessment notices and hearings required by §66.0703, Stats. The estimated costs are in the schedule B at total \$68,400.00. The final amount assessed to the property will be the lesser of: the actual cost of the improvements or the estimated amount as stated in the final resolution. The actual cost of construction will be known only after the project is completed to the satisfaction of the engineer. Councilor De Forest confirmed with Mr. Boysen that the owner of the property is aware of the cost and his responsibility to pay. Mr. Boysen affirmed that to be the case. Councilors Sloniker and Luebke made a motion to approve the final resolution as presented. Motion carried, voice vote. File 8698
- c. Public Works Director Greg Boysen presented a resolution awarding Public Works **Contract C15-24, Inman Parkway Sewer Extension**. He explained that five competitive bids were received, the low bid being from G.M.S. Excavators and confirmed that they are a qualified bidder and staff is recommending approval. Councilors Luebke and Sloniker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried, voice vote. File 8698
- d. Councilors De Forest and Kincaid made a motion that the City Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) to discuss a **pending real estate transaction**, on the potential purchase of 1403 Porter Avenue, the discussion of which would harm the City's competitive or bargaining interests if held in open session. Motion carried, 7-0. The Council proceeding into closed session at 8:24 p.m.

- e. Councilors Kincaid and Sloniker made a motion to reconvene into open session and take action on the matter discussed in closed session at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried, voice vote. Councilors Sloniker and Luebke made a motion approving the resolution “approving the offer to purchase and counter offer #1 related to the property located at 1403 Porter Avenue, Beloit Wisconsin”. Motion carried, 7-0. File 6667

12. Councilors Kincaid and De Forest made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31p.m. Motion carried.



Lorena Rae Stottler, City Clerk

www.beloitwi.gov

Date approved by City Council: November 2, 2015