



# THE BELOIT REPORT

CONTINUING ITS RESURGENCE AS A GEM OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY

## CURRENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**June 29, 2012**

*A weekly publication  
from the Office of the  
City Manager*

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### **Special points of interest:**

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### **JULY 4TH CELEBRATION NEXT WEDNESDAY**

Don't forget Beloit's wonderful July 4th celebration, which will again be held in Riverside Park. Vendors will be on hand with various food and refreshment services. The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra will present their patriotic concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Despite the extremely dry weather conditions, the Fire Department has taken special precautions and will prepare the area around the fireworks celebration. Consequently, the fireworks will go off as scheduled, after dark, in conjunction with the conclusion of the symphony presentation.

### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City Hall and the Beloit Public Library will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Trash, recycling and yard waste collection will be delayed one day beginning Wednesday, July 4 through Saturday, July 7, 2012 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

The Recycling Drop-Off Center located at 2351 Springbrook Court will be closed on Saturday, July 7 to accommodate equipment and staffing needs for Saturday trash and recycling collection. For more information, please call the City of Beloit Public Works Operations at 608-364-2929.

### **TERRACE TREE WATERING REQUEST**

The Public Works Department has issued a request to all residents to assist the City with tree watering, particularly if you have terrace trees that were planted in front of your home in the last couple of years. Young trees without deep root structures are susceptible to damage, even dying in the extremely dry conditions such as we have experienced this year. The City has redeployed much of its seasonal staff and has multiple crews watering trees, landscaping, and other plantings to minimize loss during this unusually dry summer season. We would also urge residents while you're out watering terrace trees, be sure you also give thought to other plantings on your property, particularly anything that has been planted in the last two to three years and may not have a deep, fully established root structure.

### **RIVERFEST OFF TO A GOOD START IN THEIR NEW LOCATION**

The Riverfest committee, along with their various vendors, has done a good job of setting up this year's festival at the new Riverbend location downtown. The site is actually a little larger, has far more depth, and was more adaptable for a large user of this sort. In addition to the carnival, as well as food and refreshment vendors, entertainment is scheduled each day this weekend through Sunday. Please make plans to take the family downtown and enjoy this year's Riverfest.

## BUDGET PREPARATION

Work on the 2013 proposed budget continued this week. Departments and divisions have until next Friday to complete their initial submittals in the MUNIS budget software. The capital budget review team met this week, along with City Engineer Mike Flesch, to continue review of the 2013 proposed capital spending plan. Even after earlier reductions, the budget was still substantially larger than could be supported by available General Obligation Bonds available to the City in 2013. One of the critical factors in determining the amount of capital spending available each year is the City's bond capacity. Compliance with current City policy, which is for a total General Obligation debt not to exceed 3.5% of the City's equalized assessed valuation, is monitored by City management and the City Council each year. The analysis is done as part of both the budget preparation process and the bond sizing analysis that is done each year prior to the City entering the market. The committee was able to reduce the proposed budget to fit within the available revenue limitations. The capital portion of the budget, along with the rest of the proposed budget, will be submitted to Council in early October, 2012.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012

At 5:30 p.m., the City Council will hold a [Workshop](#) in the City Hall Forum to discuss a proposed ordinance amendment to allow backyard chickens in residential areas of the City. Attached to the agenda (available on the City's website) is the latest proposed draft prepared by City staff following the last workshop. Also attached is an extensive staff report, which was compiled following completion of a great deal of research regarding the experience of other cities, particularly Madison, with the administration of an ordinance allowing for the keeping of chickens in urban neighborhoods. It is envisioned that the workshop will last for approximately one hour and the public is invited to attend. Although this is not a public hearing, the public will be given an opportunity to participate in the discussions.

At 6:30 p.m., the City Council will have an [Agenda Review](#) session in the Forum Conference Room.

The [attached](#) agenda is for the **Monday, July 2, 2012** regular City Council meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum.

### 3. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no special orders of the day or announcements.

### 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There are no public hearings scheduled on this agenda.

### 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of the **Minutes** of the regular meeting of June 18, 2012.
- b. Resolution awarding a Public Works contract for **Colby Street Reconstruction**. This is the final street located within the boundaries of the downtown TIF district to be reconstructed prior to closure of the expenditure period for this TIF District in September. This street sees little use; however, there are a number of properties that front and rely upon this road for access. The Engineering Division has devised a plan for the least expensive reconstruction of the street by replacing the broken and seriously deteriorated curb and gutter, milling the existing asphalt surface and then providing for an asphalt overlay. Once again, the road is in very poor condition and it is imperative that the reconstruction be completed prior to the closure of the TIF expenditure period. Funds for this work were included in the 2011 capital budget.
- c. Resolution awarding Public Works contract for the **West Grand Avenue Parking Lot** reconstruction. This project is the old parking lot on West Grand that sets next to the Masonic Hall. This was included in the 2012 capital spending budget in order to get this lot reconstructed and in good condition before the closure of the TIF expenditure period.

This item was intentionally bid mid-season to make sure that the old lot would be open and serviceable for Riverfest. It is envisioned that the construction will begin later in July, with completion early this fall.

- d. Resolution awarding the contract for the **Telecommunications Hut Foundation**. Councilors will recall that this item was designed and bid earlier in the season and came in well above the engineer's estimate for this work. In reviewing the specifications more closely, we discovered a number of ways that the project could be redesigned to be adequate for its purpose and to get the cost closer to what was included in the 2012 capital spending budget. That process was concluded, the bids reopened, and the low bid is in at \$69,608.64, which closely matches the Engineer's estimate for this work. The hut itself is a pre-fabricated unit and is on order, awaiting construction of the base before delivery and installation can be completed. Obviously, we are recommending approval of the bid award.
- e. Resolution approving final payment for the **Dam Tailwater Shoreline Stabilization** project. This was a 2011 project that provided for the east bank shoreline restoration on the Rock River south of the dam. The work has been completed and the project is ready for closure.
- f. Resolution authorizing the final payment for the **Weiser Reservoir**, which is part of the new well #14 project. The Weiser Reservoir has been completed and is now in service. This was a 2011 project, based upon an earlier capital spending plan to provide for the drilling of a new deep well along with the construction of the necessary blending reservoir and well house facility. The project is completed and the final payout needs Council approval.

## 7. ORDINANCES

- a. This ordinance amends a section of the Municipal Code related to **overnight parking** within the Business Improvement District (downtown). The current Municipal Ordinance supports the concept of residential development in the Downtown Business District by allowing residents to obtain a sticker for overnight parking. The current ordinance limits the overnight parking to those portions of the Municipal parking lots that have a 10-hour parking ban, and also has a minimum age of 18 years of age in order to obtain a sticker. Some time ago, the City amended its Municipal Code to eliminate the 10-hour parking standard and we now have unlimited time parking in the Municipal lots, except for those areas which have a shorter restriction to support retail sales operations located downtown. This ordinance amends the existing section of the Municipal Code to reflect the fact that this overnight parking will now be in those portions of the lots which are marked as "unrestricted," and would allow the permits to be issued for persons under 18 years of age. The changes will be necessary to support the Phoenix redevelopment project planned for East Grand Avenue.

## 8. APPOINTMENTS

There are no appointments on this agenda.

## 10. CITY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION

There are no Manager's presentations scheduled for this meeting.

## 11. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND CITY OFFICERS

- a. This is a resolution amending the **2009 Capital Improvement Budget** for the Gateway Boulevard Extension project. The construction has been completed for a couple of years; however, the Engineering Division has continued ongoing negotiations with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding several issues related to final cost sharing for this project. Those negotiations were recently concluded and the City has confirmed that the supplemental grant finally approved by the State Department of Transportation is substantially less than originally anticipated. The original budget appropriation for this project was adequate to cover all construction costs and, in fact, the project actually came in somewhat under budget. This project was funded from TID #10 TIF revenue and lease revenue bond debt being repaid from TIF #10, along with various Federal and State grants. Prior to construction, the City approached the State Department of Revenue (WISDOT), inquiring about additional supplemental funding, which often becomes available as

projects are bid, come in under Engineer's estimates, or when construction is completed and projects do not use the contingency funds routinely set aside for large scale construction projects of this nature. We were originally advised by WISDOT that approximately \$3.5 million in extra State funding would be available to help offset the cost of the project. The City subsequently reduced its bond issue by an equivalent amount and proceeded with construction of the project. We later learned that the WISDOT supplementary funding would actually be less than \$2.5 million. As a consequence, we need to shift revenue sources within TIF #10 to make our final payments for the City portion of the cost of this project. Consequently, this resolution shifts a portion of the cost for the Gateway improvements to the TIF #10 existing fund balance. Fortunately, this TIF is performing well enough to have adequate funds available to cover this expense without the need for borrowing any additional funds. As with all TIF related improvements, no general purpose City revenue was ever used for this project, or will be used as a result of this change authorizing the use of fund balance to pay off the balance of the City's portion of the cost for this important improvement project.

- b. Resolution authorizing the acquisition of various communications equipment for the City Hall Forum and providing a supplemental appropriation for this purchase. Beginning over ten years ago, the City as part of its contract with Beloit College to manage all community access programming, began setting aside funds received from the Cable Television Franchise fees each year. This set aside account was for the purpose of replacing all of the aging cable television equipment used for producing access programming in the City Hall Forum (Council Chambers) including City Council meetings and Municipal Court proceedings. The plan was to set aside a small amount (\$20,000) each year to have enough funds in this replacement account so that when the City Hall was remodeled as previously planned, all of the communications equipment in the Council Chambers could be upgraded at that time.

It has become very obvious that current financial limitations will not permit that project to move forward in the foreseeable future. In the interim, existing cable television equipment has continued to age and we experience multiple problems with the existing public address system and the ancient recording equipment used to record Council proceedings. We also have a great deal of difficulty in this room doing PowerPoint presentations or using other audio-visual aids during City Council meetings, since the screen installed in the facility is actually located behind the Council dais. A portable screen installed along the periphery of the room for these presentations is laughably inadequate and makes it difficult for not only Councilors and residents in attendance to view and participate in these presentations, but very difficult for the Cable Access Television staff to include these presentations in the cable television program. Because of recent difficulties with our public address system and the recording system, plus our inability to adequately present audio-visual presentations during Council meetings, we began a search to determine what the cost would be to upgrade all of the archaic communications equipment in this room.

As you will note from the staff report, multiple proposals were solicited and two were ultimately submitted. The low cost proposal was from a firm called AVI and provides for the complete replacement of all of the audio-visual communications equipment located within the Council chambers, including all of the Cable TV cameras, control panels and related equipment. Also to be replaced would be the public address system and the recording equipment used for meetings, as well as the installation of new flat panel monitors at three strategic locations in the room so that everyone in attendance will be able to view visual presentations, not only during City Council meetings, but also for various other boards and commissions that routinely utilize this space. The total cost for this entire project is \$60,000, all of which is available in this special set-aside fund, along with a small sum from the City Clerk's existing budget.

While the money has been reserved, it has never been appropriated, so the resolution on Council's agenda also provides for that appropriation, along with an additional \$5,000 contingent amount, just in case we should experience some kind of change or discover that we need some additional wiring or equipment during the installation and testing process. City Hall was built and dedicated in 1983 and little technological improvements have been made to the Council Chambers since that time. This is a change that is actually close to a decade overdue; however, recent cost reductions for major electronic equipment like flat panel monitors, has certainly made the cost of this upgrade more affordable and within the parameters of the reserve account that was set aside many years ago for this purpose. The staff strongly recommends that Council authorize this budget amendment and the proposal to upgrade communications equipment in the Forum.

## CITY MEETING CALENDAR JULY 2-6, 2012

Monday, July 2	5:30 p.m.	<a href="#">City Council Workshop</a> , Forum (All City Councilors)
Monday, July 2	6:30 p.m.	City Council Agenda Review, Forum (All City Councilors)
Monday, July 2	7:00 p.m.	<a href="#">City Council meeting</a> , Forum (All City Councilors)
Tuesday, July 3	Cancelled	<a href="#">Plan Commission</a> , Forum (C. Kincaid)
Wednesday, July 4		City Hall Closed, Beloit Public Library closed

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

*This is just a sample of events coming up in Beloit. A more complete listing is available on the Visit Beloit website: [www.visitbeloit.com](http://www.visitbeloit.com)*

**Beloit Public Library** offers many events for youth, teens and adults. Please click [\[here\]](#) for more information.

Saturdays throughout the summer offer an opportunity to attend the **Farmers Market**, at the intersection of State and Grand, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

June 27-July 1		<b>Beloit Riverfest</b> , downtown Beloit near the Post Office. <a href="http://www.beloitriverfest.com">www.beloitriverfest.com</a>
Wed., July 4	7:30 p.m.	<b>Patriotic Pops Concert</b> by Beloit-Janesville Symphony at Harry C. Moore Pavilion, Riverside Park, Beloit. Free admission—bring lawn chair and/or blanket. Concert will be followed by fireworks.
Friday, July 6	11:30-1:30 p.m.	<b>Fridays in the Park</b> , First National Bank Plaza at State and Grand, Beloit. Jazz with the Rob Tomaro Trio, food by Otha's Ribs
Friday, July 6	6:00 p.m.	<b>Gospel Jubilee on the RiverFront</b> , Harry Moore Pavilion at Riverside Park
Sat., July 14		<b>Wiffleball Tournament</b> at Leeson Park. For more information or to register, please call the Leisure Services office at 364-2890.
Sun., July 15	Noon-4:00 p.m.	<b>Beckman Mill Ice Cream Social</b> , 6 miles west of Beloit on County Road H.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Beloit City Council will hold a Workshop on Monday, July 2, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Forum, located on the first floor of City Hall, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss a **proposed ordinance amendment to allow backyard chickens in residential areas of the City.**

The City Council will then hold a **Workshop** at 6:30 p.m. in the Forum Conference Room to review the agenda of the regular 7:00 p.m. City Council meeting.

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Larry N. Arft, City Manager

Dated: June 27, 2012  
Rebecca S. Houseman  
City Clerk  
[www.ci.beloit.wi.us](http://www.ci.beloit.wi.us)

\*\* Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerks Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit WI 53511.



**AGENDA  
BELOIT CITY COUNCIL  
100 State Street, Beloit WI 53511  
City Hall Forum – 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, July 2, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS
4. PUBLIC HEARINGS
5. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION
6. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered at this point on the agenda.

- a. Approval of the **Minutes** of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2012 (Elson)
  - b. Resolution awarding Public Works **Contract C12-13, Colby Street Reconstruction** (Flesch)
  - c. Resolution awarding Public Works **Contract C12-03, West Grand Avenue Parking Lot** (Flesch)
  - d. Resolution awarding Public Works **Contract C12-02R, Telecommunications Hut Foundation** (Flesch)
  - e. Resolution approving final payment for Public Works **Contract C10-16, Dam Tailwater Shoreline Stabilization** (Flesch)
  - f. Resolution approving final payment for Public Works **Contract C10-11, Weiser Reservoir** (Flesch)
7. ORDINANCES
    - a. An ordinance to amend Section 13.05(3) of the Code of General Ordinances of the City of Beloit Relating to **Overnight Parking Permits for Residents of Business Improvement District** (Janke/Casper) 1st reading
  8. APPOINTMENTS – none
  9. COUNCILOR ACTIVITIES AND UPCOMING EVENTS
  10. CITY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION – none
  11. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND CITY OFFICERS

- a. Resolution amending the **2009 Capital Improvement Budget** for P5003444-5514-2009, Gateway Boulevard (Flesch)
- b. Resolution approving an upgrade to the **Audio and Visual Equipment in the Forum** (Arft)

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

\*\* Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511.

Dated: June 27, 2012  
Rebecca S. Houseman  
City of Beloit City Clerk  
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<p>You can watch this meeting live on Charter PEG channel 98 or digital channel 992. Meetings are rebroadcast during the week of the Council meeting on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m., Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and Friday at 1:00 p.m.</p>
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Plan Commission Members

**FROM:** Julie Christensen

**DATE:** June 28, 2012

**SUBJECT:** **Cancellation of Plan Commission Meeting**

Since no applications have been submitted, the regularly scheduled **July 3, 2012** meeting of the Plan Commission has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting is **July 18, 2012**.

Please contact me at 364-6703 with any questions or comments.

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