


PROCEEDINGS OF THE BELOIT CITY COUNCIL
Special Joint Meeting with the
School District of Beloit Board of Education
605 Eclipse Boulevard, Beloit, WI 53511
Monday, February 23, 2015

Presiding: Mark Spreitzer
Present: Sheila De Forest, Charles M. Haynes Regina D. Hendrix, Ana Kelly, and Chuck Kincaid
Absent: David F. Luebke

1. Councilor Spreitzer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Community Room at the Beloit Public Library.
2. Board of Education President John Winkelmann and members Shannon Scharmer and Missy Henderson were present (no quorum).
3. Finance and Administrative Services Director Eric Miller presented information regarding the City's **Commercial Property Tax Assessment Appeal**. He indicated that the City appealed the 2013 and 2014 equalized assessed values of the City's commercial property as determined by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. He indicated that the City and the DOR came to an agreement at the end of 2014 and that the DOR is slowing increasing the commercial values to return to the previous values.
4. Councilor Spreitzer and Mr. Winkelmann lead the discussion of current school district policies and procedures regarding **student attendance/truancy** and the Beloit Municipal Court procedures regarding truancy citations. Interim Co-Superintendent Tom Johnson described the difference between truancy and habitual truancy and presented the school district's rates for each. City Attorney Elizabeth Krueger presented information regarding truancy, habitual truancy, and day time curfew violations with regard to the Beloit Municipal Court. Councilor De Forest asked if transportation is often a reason given for truancy, and Dr. Johnson said that it is not typically one of the top three reasons given. Councilor De Forest said that she would like to create a task force to try to work on this community-wide issue. Dr. Johnson indicated that he would welcome the creation of such a task force, and Ms. Henderson indicated that she supported the idea as well. Ms. Scharmer encouraged Dr. Johnson and Attorney Krueger to meet to discuss the type of information the Municipal Court needs to determine the success rate of the truancy programs. Mr. Winkelmann also expressed the need for help for parents who do not know what to do with their truant children. Councilor Hendrix asked if there is data available regarding the reasons for truancy, and Dr. Johnson said that there is not solid data at this time. Councilor Hendrix suggested that the task force organize focus groups to determine the reasons.
5. School District Business Manager Janelle Marotz presented information regarding the School District **Budget**. She indicated that it is very difficult to budget because the District's fiscal year starts in July but they do not receive all of the information necessary to budget until October. She indicated that there will be budget shortfalls for the next several years including an estimate of \$4.5 million for the next school year. Ms. Marotz also indicated that the needs of the students in the district are expanding while state aids are decreasing.
6. Dr. Johnson provided an update regarding the School District's new **intermediate school structure** and regarding the Fran Fruzen Intermediate School construction project. He indicated that Aldrich will no longer be a middle school and that the Fran Fruzen School will be ready to open for the 2015-2016 school year.
7. Councilor Spreitzer and Mr. Winkelmann asked if there are any items that the two groups would

like to discuss at future meetings. Mr. Winkelmann suggested that they discuss collaboration between the City and the School District with regard to summer programs and summer school. Ms. Henderson said that she would like to see efforts to market the School District and the City together. Councilor Spreitzer suggested another meeting in May or early June.

8. At 8:10 p.m., Councilor Kincaid made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Hendrix seconded, and the motion carried.



Rebecca Houseman LeMire, City Clerk

www.beloitwi.gov

Date Approved by Council: March 2, 2015