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CONNECTIONS

City Hall Newsletter - 207 W 6th St. - Marshfield, WI 54449 - 715-486-2000



August 23, 2019

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City Administrator

Steve Barg
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City of Marshfield Upcoming Meetings

Monday, August 26 - Special Historic Preservation Meeting, Airport at 3:30PM

Tuesday, August 27 - Common Council Meeting, City Hall at 6PM

Thursday, August 29 - Special Common Council Meeting, City Hall at 6PM

Tuesday, Sept. 3 - Finance, Budget and Personnel Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers at 5:30PM

Tuesday, Sept. 3 - Public Works Meeting, City Hall at 6PM

Thursday, Sept. 5 - Special Common Council Meeting, City Hall at 6:30PM



The impending transition from summer to autumn brings changes, such as football, crisp fall mornings, and brightly colored leaves dropping from the trees. Here at City Hall, autumn means the annual budget development is soon on its way. What goes into a budget, and how can average citizens get involved to give us their thoughts and suggestions?

First, let's take a look at the City budget, and how your tax dollars are currently used. In 2019, the City's total budget was approximately \$44 million, with half of that (\$22 million) being general fund expenses. That undoubtedly sounds like a very big number, which it is, but it's important to recognize the size and scope of services funded with these monies. For example, about \$8.8 million, or nearly 40% of our total general fund expenses in 2019, are committed to maintain our outstanding police and fire department operations. There are many other departments that serve our residents well by offering quality services, including public works/engineering, parks and recreation, planning and economic development, library, assessing, clerk's office, finance, technology, and administration. Outside the general fund, the City has "enterprise" funds serving important functions, of which the two largest are our wastewater operation and emergency medical services.

Where does the money come from to fund all of these services? A majority of general fund expenses are financed with the general tax levy, and property taxes comprised \$12 million (54%) of the 2014 budget. Most of the remaining \$10 million needed for the general fund budget comes from state aids, with other monies coming from fines/fees, grants, and other assorted sources. Enterprise funds (wastewater and EMS) are funded by fees for service, not with tax levy dollars.

Continued on back page

How does this translate into your tax bill? What usually happens is that the Council sets the parameters, often ranging from a flat tax rate to an acceptable tax increase. Staff uses this range to craft a proposed budget for the Council's consideration in October. The City has diligently held the tax rate tight in recent years, and in fact there was no increase for 8 straight years through 2013. For years 2014-2019, there has been a small increase each year, with a total increase of 3.4% over that 6-year period. The current rate is \$9.26 per \$1000 of assessed value, meaning that excluding credits, a homeowner would pay \$926 in City taxes on a \$100,000 house. The overall tax rate (with school, county, technical college, state) is a little more than \$24 per \$1000 of assessed value, so the City's share is about 37% of your total tax bill.

How can citizens give their input? First, you can contact the Mayor or your Council member as indicated on the City's website, or contact the City Administrator at 486-2003, or Steve.Barg@ci.marshfield.wi.us. The Council has scheduled 3 budget meetings (October 14th at 6:00 p.m., October 21st at 5:30 p.m., and October 29th at 6:00 p.m.) in the Council Chambers of City Hall, and you are invited to attend and express your views. Some people might be intimidated, feeling uncomfortable addressing the Mayor and Council with suggestions or ideas, unless they have worked out all of the details. But we have excellent elected officials, and you just need to tell us what is on your mind about how we raise and spend money, and I can assure you they'll value your comments! Finally, we'll have a public hearing on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m., again in the City Hall Council Chambers, giving you one more chance to raise questions and concerns before the Council makes its final decision on the 2020 budget and tax levy.

On behalf of the Mayor, Council, and City staff, we look forward to hearing your questions, comments, and concerns about the use of your tax dollars, so please plan to share your thoughts with us this fall!

Steve Barg, City Administrator



VISION

The vision is to provide a state-of-the-art public, outdoor aquatic center that enhances health, fitness, water safety, and recreational opportunities in Marshfield.

PLAN

Currently, Marshfield has one outdoor pool which is located in Wildwood Park. Hefko Pool is 85 years old and needs to be replaced. Spending money on repairs and upkeep is no longer cost-effective.

Hefko Pool was built in 1934, and the adjacent bathhouse was added in 1974, with only one amenity, a diving board. The new outdoor aquatic center will be located at the same site and will have 3 slides, 2 diving boards, a climbing wall, basketball hoops, a full concession stand, family changing rooms, private changing stalls, a reservable shelter, a party room, a current channel, a grass area, shade structures and plenty of lounge chairs.

SCHEDULE

Phase 01 - Final Design: July 2019 - January 2020

Phase 02 - Bidding, Permitting & Submittals: February 2020 - July 2020

Phase 03 - Construction: August 2020 - May 2021

Phase 04 - Grand Opening: July 2021



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Be a part of the challenge. To take the plunge, download a pledge form at www.ci.marshfield.wi.us. Many recognition opportunities still exist. Let's pool together for Marshfield!

Did you know?

We are now providing LIVE meetings available on the City of Marshfield's Facebook Page
Finance, Budget and Personnel
Judiciary & Licensing Committee
Planning Commission
Common Council meetings