

DECEMBER 6, 2004

PUBLIC HEARING: Called to order by Mayor Meyers at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall Plaza regarding the proposed 2005 Budget.

COMMENTS:

- William Penker of 600 S. Sycamore Avenue. He thanked the Council for approving a change in the assessment and collection of the Public Fire Protection Charge. This will bring a greater sense of equity to that fee. He also supports the concept of the Stormwater Utility. He will view the budget as an incomplete document until the Stormwater Utility is addressed in the affirmative and he will also view the budget as one, which did not meet its objectives. The budget parameters are your gospel and commandments for the budget process. With that thought in mind, you do not have the option of picking and choosing. If they are not applied in total, what happens to the credibility of the budget and process? As noted in the minutes of the October 25, 2004 Council meeting, the parameters are out. Your budget process developed a credibility problem. The budget must provide funding for vital services, ancillary services that are necessary to the community and it must also promote, advance and enhance a vision. If the Council cannot enumerate a present and future vision in the budget, then the budget should be rejected. In the end, what do you do? You vote without discussion for approval of the budget. No discussion is needed because you have already spoken too long and have said too much. You vote for approval because it is the lesser of two evils. Tomorrow morning you begin the next budget cycle. For those of you that actually listen to citizen comments, you will need to go back to 1998 and apply a suggestion that was made in September of that year.
- Dave LaFontaine of 1206 Adler Road, President of Main Street Marshfield. He thanked the Council and City Administration for continuing to support the Main Street Marshfield program.

Approval of the budget is scheduled for December 7, 2004.

Public Hearing closed at 6:38p.m.