

**JULY 11, 2006**

Regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Meyers at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall Plaza.

**PRESENT:** Michael Feirer, Alanna Feddick, Trish Siegler, Marty Anderson, Ed Wagner, Chris Meyer, Donald Krueger, Tom Buttke and Edward Beaudry, Jr.

**ABSENT:** John Spiros

The flag was saluted and the pledge given.

Invocation was given by Rev. Mary Pol, First Presbyterian Church.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MAYOR**

Word to the Wise:

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions. Author: Anonymous

**CC06-221** Motion by Siegler, second by Feddick to approve the minutes of the Common Council meeting of June 27, 2006. Don Krueger made the following change: Chris Meyer and Donald Krueger are shown as being present and absent. They were absent from the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vote on motion **CC06-221 as amended:** All Ayes

**Motion carried**

No items were added to the agenda.

**CC06-222** Motion by Anderson, second by Feddick to grant the noise variance to the Marshfield Softball Association, as permitted by Chapter 10-33(7), for the Softball Tournament on August 11-13, 2006 to be held at the Fairgrounds and waive the \$100 fee. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Clark Albers, 1411 Arlington St. He has been a State Trooper in Wood County since 1987. He has had a lot of exposure to the dispatch centers in Wood County. He feels that the Marshfield Police Department has a great work ethic. He feels that by turning the dispatch over to a third party, we lose what we have here.

Sue Weber, 606 N. Chestnut. She is objecting to the variance for the Weiler Car Wash. When they purchased their home 10 years ago, they had a reasonable expectation of peace and quiet. It is devaluing her home, the homes of her neighbors and their yards are unusable. She has complained for over 3 years. She would like the city to address this.

Kris Tysver, 607 N. Chestnut. She is objecting to the variance for the Weiler Car Wash. Her driveway is directly behind the car wash exit. At several times, including tonight, they could not get out of the driveway. Vehicles park there because that is where the air pump is. People stop there to dry their vehicles off. The levels are so loud they cannot open up their windows. They cannot entertain in their yard. She cannot hang clothes on her clothes line because if the doors are open, the spray gets on her clothes. The ice in the winter is bad. As a citizen that is trying to raise the value of her house, she couldn't even sell her house at this point.

Shirley Mook, 201 S. Vine Ave. She has several newspaper articles in which she is branded a rebel rouser, cheap, and chicken hearted because she wrote the flyer that went out to the citizens of Marshfield. The flyer was signed by Marshfield Citizens Concerned for Public Safety. It was written because a number of persons have voiced their concerns over this matter for many months and nobody wanted to listen. This decision was made because it reduces redundant services, reduces taxes, but will maintain the same level of services. What about the County Sheriff's Department, the County Parks and Forestry Department, or the County Planner? When all the costs are tallied, some people think they will not save any taxes. It was stated that citizens will have the same level of services, but that is not true. Any time you outsource anything, you lose service, quality and local control.

Tom Suhr, 1703 Sawyer Dr. He has worked approximately 15 years in law enforcement and served in La Crosse and Eau Claire County where they had central dispatch. In the 15 years he worked under those systems, it was the best.

**CC06-223** Motion by Feirer, second by Krueger to grant a temporary variance to Weiler Convenience Stores, 600 N. Central, to operate its car wash only during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and not allow the car wash to operate during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Weiler's was given 60 days to get the daytime levels for the car wash within compliance. At the end of the 60 days, the Common Council will review the variance.

Amber Miller stated if we are going to be consistent about this, we will have to look at all the car washes in the community. The Police Department will have to go out to the car washes and take readings at the property line and they will have to come into compliance. Several car washes in the downtown area are built with no set backs. You are going to have to apply the same standards. They may not be adjacent to someone's bedroom or home, but they are violating the noise ordinance.

Alderman Anderson asked what would happen if we didn't grant the variance. Police Chief Stroik responded they cannot operate. The Police Department does not enforce the noise violations unless residents nearby are having an issue. They have not issued any citations because they are trying to work with the Planning Department to get the problem corrected.

Ray Alt, 612 N. Central Ave. They have a problem with the moisture from the facility. His wife has a problem with perfumes, so they have to keep their windows closed so they don't get it in their house.

Alderman Feirer thought that when this car wash was built, Weiler's wanted it to be built the opposite way, but we made him turn it around because of the set back. He doesn't feel it should be shut down now after we made him put it the way it is.

Alderman Buttker is willing to be flexible, he wants to be able to work through this, but he does not want to pass a variance when there is no solution. He's willing to give some time for the car wash to work this out. Amber Miller stated Mr. Weiler had spoken with the car wash company and there are some solutions that may help.

Mayor Meyers stated the operation is in violation 24 hours a day. He has a tendency to feel for the residents in the neighborhood.

Vote on **motion CC06-223**: All Ayes

**Motion carried**

#### **MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD AND COMMISSIONS**

**CC06-224** Motion by Meyer, second by Krueger to receive and place on file the minute of the Community Development Authority of June 1, 2006. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

#### **MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

**CC06-225** Motion by Feirer, second by Wagner to approve the minutes of the Historic Preservation Committee of May 8, 2006 and the Convention and Visitors Bureau of June 14, 2006. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

#### **MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**CC06-226** Motion by Krueger, second by Beaudry to approve the minutes of the Cable TV Committee of June 26, 2006. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

**CC06-227** Motion by Feirer, second by Wagner to approve the minutes of the Board of Public Works of July 3, 2006. Don Krueger made the following change: on motion PW06-63 he did not second the motion, Buttke did.

Vote on **motion CC06-227 as amended**: All Ayes

**Motion carried**

#### **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS**

**CC06-228** Motion by Feddick, second by Feirer to receive and place on file the minutes of the Central Wisconsin State Fair Board of June 18, 2006. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

**CC06-229** Motion by Anderson, second by Feddick to receive and place on file the minutes from the Sustainable Marshfield Committee of June 27, 2006. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

First reading of Ordinance 1072, attaching certain lands from the Town of McMillan, Marathon County, Wisconsin to the City of Marshfield, Wisconsin.

First reading of Ordinance 1073, providing for repealing of Article V of Section 18 of the Municipal Code.

**CC06-230** Motion by Anderson, second by Wagner to approve Budget Resolution No. 13-2006, for Fairgrounds Food Vendor Area, transferring an additional \$6,083 for this project. All Ayes

**Motion carried**

## **PUBLIC FORUM ON WOOD COUNTY CENTRAL DISPATCH**

Introduction by Michael Brehm, City Administrator.

Governments are regularly faced with increasing costs to provide the same level of services. We are continually criticized for our high tax rate. The joint agreement that the City of Marshfield has with Wood County and the City of Wisconsin Rapids to combine dispatch services is a cooperative commitment by these three government units to reduce cost but yet continue to provide the same level of service that their citizens expect. The flyer that the citizens received stated we don't know how much money we are going to save, if any. In regards to our dispatch center in 2005 the tax levy was almost \$467,000. For a property valued at \$100,000, this represented \$42 of your taxes. In 2006 the levy was approximately \$273,000 or \$24.63 for \$100,000 in value. The reason for the reduction in 2006 is the City's budget is 9 months due to the fact that the County is going to take over dispatch on October 1, 2006. In 2007 it is expected that the County will levy taxes for the entire dispatch service. The City's share is about 26%. If you use the equalized value that was allocated out for 2006, our share is about \$165,000, which represents \$14.87 for every \$100,000. The City is also paying 1/3 of the start up costs not to exceed \$333,333. The County opted to borrow the money on behalf of all three entities. Our share of that cost for principal and interest for the first year is \$124,000 or \$11.20 per \$100,000 of value. There are some costs that will continue even though the dispatch center will be in Wisconsin Rapids - heating, personnel, cleaning, etc., this amounts to about \$3.67 for every \$100,000. To summarize, the rate for every \$100,000 goes down from \$42.09 in 2005, \$24.63 in 2006 to \$14.87 estimated for 2007 plus an additional \$11.20 for indebtedness costs. After three years \$11.20 will no longer be there. The \$3.67 will continue to be there for utilities and personnel costs. The equipment at the current dispatch center needs to be replaced within the next 5 years at an estimated cost of \$150,000. In regards to staffing, it is my understanding that 5 of the 6 dispatchers currently employed with the City of Marshfield have accepted employment with Wood County. It is anticipated that one dispatcher from Marshfield will be assigned to each shift. All dispatchers will be crossed trained. The agreement that the City has with Wood County and Wisconsin Rapids is that the center was to be located in Marshfield unless it was shown that it would be less expensive to have it elsewhere. With telephone costs, it was significantly more to have it located in Marshfield. Central Dispatch has been successfully implemented throughout the state. This eliminates the duplication of services. There was a time that our system was down for a day or two and dispatch was handled by Wood County. It is reliable and dependable. The key is trained personnel. We will have that at the County level. This was not a decision of the Mayor or myself to go with Central Dispatch. We made a recommendation to the Common Council and they did approve the contract 10 – 0.

Update by Joe Stroik, Police Chief.

Their goal is to make sure that the end user sees no difference in emergency services. The citizens will see some changes in nonemergency services. After hours, there will likely be no one staffing the Police Department. Currently dispatchers are there to answer questions and let people in to the inner lobby. There are things that are going to pop up that we can't predict. We are looking at our options. More details will come out in September just prior to the transition.

Update by Kelly Zenz, Wood County Dispatch Manager.

He was a Wood County dispatcher for one year before getting this position. Before that he worked for several years as a police officer and a firefighter. There has been a lot of research as to how to

make this work and there are several communities throughout the state where it works fine. The Users Group has had several meetings regarding the continuity of the service to the end users. Overnight parking was one issue that needs to be solved. Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids does overnight parking, Wood County never dealt with that. It will be worked out. All but one of the Marshfield dispatchers has accepted a position beginning October 1st. All Wisconsin Rapids dispatchers have been hired. With the current technology that we are going to implement, the equipment will be better than anyone currently has. All equipment is coming in this month or first part of August. By June of 2007, the equipment should be ready to locate 911 calls anywhere in Wood County. Once the remodeling is done in the Dispatch Center, Wood County, Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield dispatchers will be familiarized with the new equipment. All dispatchers will be cross-trained. Wood County and Wisconsin Rapids dispatchers will ride with the Marshfield Police Department and Marshfield dispatchers will ride with Wood County and Wisconsin Rapids officers. A lot will be put into training. As to the problems that people are talking about, every place makes mistakes. No one can guarantee there will not be any mistakes.

Randy Schiferl, Wood County Supervisor. When the whole shared dispatch idea started the number one goal was better public safety. The Emergency Management Committee will be the oversight committee of the Shared Dispatch.

Jeff Schultz, 201 N. Ceder Ave. asked what will happen to the people in the portion of Marshfield which is in Marathon County. If they are located in Marshfield, they will be covered by the Shared Dispatch.

Lavern Reigel, 804 S. Hemlock, questioned why the dispatch was not going to be in Marshfield. Mayor Meyers stated the main issue was the cost of having phone service in Marshfield. Verizon costs were \$400,000 more to have it in Marshfield than Wisconsin Rapids. Mr. Reigel asked if this issue was ever discussed in open session. The Mayor stated that there were several public meetings held. Randy Schiferl stated that the phone companies are required to give phone service to the county seat at a reduced cost. When it was moved to Marshfield, the cost was significantly higher.

Shirley Mook, 201 S. Vine Ave., had several concerns regarding the Shared Dispatch Center. She feels the citizens of Marshfield were not aware of what was going on. Her concerns were:

- How many dispatchers will be working on each shift and what happens if they are all busy? Kelly Zenz replied at least 4, sometimes 5 or 6, depending on what is going on. They will watch call volumes and adjust shifts as necessary.
- She feels that the Marshfield Dispatchers record more information on the blotter than Wood County Dispatchers. Kelly Zenz was not aware of this and will look into this issue with the User Group.
- Marshfield has higher hiring standards, then Wood County. How is this going to be handled? Kelly Zenz responded that hiring procedures will be changed.
- Who will monitor the Police Department when the dispatch center is not there? Joe Stroik replied that still needs to be worked out.
- If someone brings in a prisoner, how will you handle taking them to Wood County? Joe Stroik stated every case is different. Once dispatch is moved, they will not be able to hold any prisoners in the jail. Either an officer will have to stay in the building or they will have to transport to Wood County immediately.

- Will more officers have to be taken off the road to man the station and retrieve paperwork? What happens when they are busy? Joe Stroik replied our dispatchers do more for the officers than most dispatchers. It will be a loss, but procedures will be adjusted to make it work.
- The officers have stated that removing the dispatch center will impede their enforcement capabilities. Removing the dispatch center will make the communication that our officers and dispatchers now have impossible.
- Our dispatchers know our community and the kind of quality service that we are used to.

Alderman Wagner is not against shared dispatch but he is concerned about the manner by which they came to these decisions and the structure of the shared dispatch. In the months to come, he is going to refer to the Mayor and City Attorney and hope that the agreement can be amended to give the City of Marshfield more control of services. One of the first rules of management is you can delegate authority but you can't delegate responsibility. The responsibility of the safety and welfare of our citizens still lies with us no matter if we contract out to a private concern or county or whomever. What he would like to see over the coming months is the agreement amended to give us, the consumers of this service, more of a say in the governance of it over the long term.

Alderman Buttke stated that officers are in the Police Department building while on shift for various reasons. They are not all on the road all the time. Joe Stroik agreed that the officers are in the building doing reports or break time. There are times it is mandatory that they are not in the building – bar time or school time.

Lavern Reigel stated that when he worked at the Police Department, there was more than one occasion that someone came in for help. Joe Stroik responded that the inner lobby door could be opened by the dispatcher on duty if someone came and needed to get away from someone. 3 to 5 times a week someone comes to the front lobby needing help. They are working out a way to continue this.

Mayor Meyers stated that comments are always welcome. There has been several public meetings regarding this subject in the last three or four years. He feels it is an opportunity. He's happy with everything, except the location. He doesn't feel that there will be any change in response times for Police and Fire & Rescue. There are mistakes in any dispatch center. But this is the best route for us to go. He felt that the process being used by the flyer was cheap. It was difficult for him or anybody to address issues if you don't know who you are addressing it to. He is in support of the combined dispatch and he thinks it going to be the best move the council has ever made.

Motion by Feirer, second by Meyer to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. All Ayes  
**Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Krogman, Mayor Secretary