**PUBLIC HEARING:** Called to order by Mayor Meyers at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall Plaza regarding the proposed 2008 Budget.

## **COMMENTS**

Patty Nagel of 1315 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street. She expressed her displeasure on how some council members conducted themselves during the budget hearings. The parameters and schedule are set up by the Administrator but the final format is approved by the Council. So you should adhere to the format as it was adopted. She feels that it is a good setup. She agrees that the Fire Department is understaffed and the efforts to increase the number of firefighters is a good thing. But the motion to do so by reorganizing the Public Works Department and to eliminate the Director of Planning and Economic Development and an Engineer was short-sighted. Any department changes should be looked at by function and what projects the city needs to accomplish. If you want to try to save money by contracting out engineering services, why don't you just direct the Administrator and Public Works Director to do so? These actions showed a lack of respect and perhaps mistrust of the city administration. It is unfair to throw departments into chaos and leave the staff to handle the fallout. That is not good leadership. She expects City Council members to have open and honest communications with staff and work together in conducting city business. You may accomplish more of your goals. If the Council does decide to eliminate the engineer position you may want to think about adding the extra computers back into the budget.

The public hearing closed at 6:37 p.m.

Special 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, Tim Kraus, Ed Wagner, Josh

Hansen, Donald Krueger, John Spiros, Tom Buttke and Pete Hendler

**ABSENT:** None

The flag was saluted and the pledge given.

No items were added to the agenda.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Fire Chief James Schmidt read a letter from Michael A. Schmidt, President of Saint Joseph's Hospital which stated that they supported the recommendations of the Police and Fire Commission to build a second Fire and EMS Station in the northern portion of the city to improve the response times and health and well-being of the people in the community.

## 2008 CITY BUDGET

Administrator Brehm had no recommended changes.

Alderperson Kraus said that according to State Statute he has to make known that he is the Acting Interim Executive Director of Main Street.

<u>CC07-400</u> Motion by Wagner, second by Hendler to approve Resolution No. 2007-47, determining and levying the amount to be raised by taxation for City purposes for the 2008 fiscal year.

Alderperson Siegler stated that she would be abstaining from voting on the budget due to the fact that she does have a personal interest to gain for voting against the budget. If she were to vote for the budget, in looking at the elimination of the engineering position within the Engineering department, it makes no fiscal sense to do so. Eliminating that position is going to cost taxpayers additional moneys in future years. She can't consciously vote in favor of a budget that will continue to cost the taxpayers additional moneys, whether that is through capital funds or directly off the mill rate.

Alderperson Krueger said that he also can't vote for the budget. He feels that the elimination of the engineering position is going to cost the City of Marshfield money in the long run.

Alderperson Feirer commented that he will vote for this budget but he does have some reservations. He agrees with the point about the engineer and there is also a multi-million dollar facility being built out on 29<sup>th</sup> Street and we are not going to put a proper road out to that facility that the UW System is building. That is a travesty to the project but he will vote for the budget because he wants to make sure that the taxpayers have a tax bill in-hand so that they can pay their bills by the first of the year.

Vote on motion <u>CC07-400</u>; Siegler abstained, Krueger voted Naye, rest Aye. **Motion carried** 

Motion by Kraus, second by Spiros to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. **Motion carried** 

Deb M. Hall City Clerk