

DECEMBER 18, 2007

Regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Meyers at 6:02 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 invocation was given.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MAYOR

Word to the Wise: Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Author: Anonymous

CC07-424 Motion by Hendler, second by Spiros to approve the minutes of the Common Council meeting of December 11, 2007. All Ayes

Motion carried

No items were added to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Brad Breuer of 205 N. Maple Avenue. He believes that there are some benefits in regards to building a second fire station with additional personnel. There has been 37+ years of studies done in regards to a second fire station and additional personnel and that is why the department staff is trying to show the Council that they need to protect the life and property of the residents of Marshfield currently and for the future, with a need of a second fire station with additional personnel.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Brehm gave a report on the following:

1. MACCI's Benchmark Reports for November and December

MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CC07-425 Motion by Krueger, second by Buttke to receive and place on file the minutes of the Marshfield Utilities Commission of December 10, 2007.

Aldersperson Krueger stated that Jim Edwards was present for the meeting. The minutes show that he was absent.

Vote on motion **CC07-425**; All Ayes

Motion carried

MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

CC07-426 Motion by Hansen, second by Buttke to approve the minutes of the Electrical Board of December 5, 2007. All Ayes

Motion carried

MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

CC07-427 Motion by Spiros, second by Wagner to approve the minutes of the Cable TV Committee of July 23, 2007. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-428 Motion by Feddick, second by Buttke to approve the minutes of the Sustainable Marshfield Committee of December 4, 2007. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-429 Motion by Feirer, second by Feddick to approve the minutes of the Committee on Aging of December 6, 2007. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-430 Motion by Wagner, second by Feddick to approve the minutes of the Judiciary, License and Cemetery Committee of December 11, 2007. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-431 Motion by Feirer, second by Wagner to approve the minutes of the Board of Public Works of December 17, 2007 as read. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-432 Motion by Buttke, second by Siegler to approve the minutes of the Finance, Budget and Personnel Committee of December 18, 2007 as read. All Ayes

Motion carried

Second reading of Ordinance No. 1120, amending Section 9-34 (5) of the Municipal Code relating to revocation and suspension of licenses.

CC07-433 Motion by Wagner, second by Feirer to approve Ordinance No. 1120. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-434 Motion by Kraus, second by Spiros to approve Preliminary Resolution No. 2007-49, Improvement Project No. 1801, 1803 & 6721 – East 8th Street from Felker Avenue to Washington Avenue. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-435 Motion by Wagner, second by Feirer to approve Preliminary Resolution No. 2007-50, Improvement Project No. 1882, 1888, 1950 & 6716 – Western Street from St. Joseph Avenue to Wood Avenue. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-436 Motion by Feirer, second by Spiros to approve Preliminary Resolution No. 2007-51, Improvement Project No. 1904 – 2008 Mill-in-Place Paving Projects.

- Broadway Avenue (Blodgett Street to North Street)
- 27th Street (Wittman Avenue to Oak Avenue)
- Adler Road (State Avenue to Adams Avenue)
- McMillan Street (Lincoln Avenue to 1320 feet west)
- Sawyer Drive (Veterans Parkway Frontage Road to Upham Street)

- Ash Avenue (Doege Street to Becker Road)
- Cedar Avenue (Blodgett Street to Doege Street)
- 10th Street (Maple Avenue to Vine Avenue)
- Anton Avenue (410 feet south of 5th Street to Auburn Avenue)
- Lincoln Avenue (Veterans Parkway Frontage Road to Spencer Street)

All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-437 Motion by Feddick, second by Kraus to approve Budget Resolution No. 27-2007, transferring \$1,082 within the Municipal Court budget for a new recording system. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-438 Motion by Krueger, second by Hendler to approve Budget Resolution No. 28-2007, transferring \$19,070 within the City Hall Remodeling Fund budget for first floor conference room remodeling. Kraus and Wagner voted Naye, rest Aye.

Motion carried

CC07-439 Motion by Kraus, second by Hendler to approve Budget Resolution No. 29-2007, transferring \$13,000 from the Contingency Fund to City Hall Remodeling for reconditioning of the rolling security grilles located on the 5th Floor (Finance and City Clerk). All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-440 Motion by Siegler, second by Feirer to approve Budget Resolution No. 30-2007, transferring \$2,500 from the Contingency Fund to the Mayor's budget to fund unanticipated travel expenses. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-441 Motion by Kraus, second by Siegler to approve Budget Resolution No. 31-2007, transferring \$20,232 within the Cable Television budget to replace the sound system in the Council Chambers. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-442 Motion by Feddick, second by Siegler to approve Budget Resolution No. 32-2007, transferring \$7,686 from the Emergency Management budget to the Law Enforcement budget for emergency generator replacement. All Ayes

Motion carried

Mayor Meyers read his committee appointments for the Committee on Youth. The following individuals if approved would serve on the committee until September 30, 2008.

Emmalee Boyle

Oladipo Fagbemi

CC07-443 Motion by Buttke, second by Wagner to suspend the rules. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-444 Motion by Feirer, second by Siegler to approve the appointments to the Committee on Youth as recommended by the Mayor. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-445 Motion by Wagner, second by Feirer to approve the additional extension of the current contract for the Cable Access Coordinator to February 15, 2008. All Ayes
Motion carried

Discussion was held on a second or new main fire station including possible locations.

Mayor Meyers announced that the Fire & Police Commission met today and their minutes were distributed to the Council members. Their action regarding this topic is shown in motion FP07-0149.

Fire Chief Schmidt expressed his appreciation for the time and effort that members of the Common Council, city staff, and members of past studies have put into the research for the need of a second fire station and additional staff.

He requested the support of the Common Council on the following plan:

- 1.) Build a second fire station in the northern half of the City of Marshfield
- 2.) Examine funding options for hiring six (6) additional personnel
- 3.) Remodel current fire station for short term & immediate needs
- 4.) Define criteria for potential third fire station in 2020.

The Fire and Police Commission supports this plan.

Aldersperson Buttke said that he has seen all of the reports and listened to all of the discussion. He is going to go along with our professional staff who he respects; Fire & Police Commission, Firefighters, Administration and all of the people on the committees.

CC07-446 Motion by Buttke, second by Siegler to approve the Fire Chief's recommended plan as presented.

- Build a second fire station in the northern half of the City of Marshfield
- Examine funding options for hiring six (6) additional personnel
- Remodel current fire station for short term and immediate needs
- Define criteria for potential third fire station in 2020.

Aldersperson Kraus stated that the motion includes examining funding options for hiring six (6) additional personnel but it doesn't give any firm date or funding.

Fire Chief Schmidt explained that the reason why the plan is written that way is because they are looking at the possibility of a SAFER grant. They need to examine the SAFER grant process to determine if they can go for all six (6) people in a year or if they have to stagger it in a number of years. It is his intent to add six (6) additional personnel and to have six (6) additional personnel onboard when that fire station is complete.

Aldersperson Kraus said that the motion also states that they are going to remodel the current station. According to the SEH Study, we would be looking at another million dollars. He asked if they are talking about the 10,500 sq. ft. north station or the 17,400 sq. ft. north station because they would be looking at a difference of another million dollars, either three million or two million depending upon what size they are talking about.

Fire Chief Schmidt responded that they have three (3) major components attached to that plan; (1) Second Fire Station to the north; (2) Adding six (6) additional personnel and (3) Remodeling of the current fire station. Any one of those three is a significant project for any department in the City of Marshfield or State-wide or the Country. His intent is to give them as much information as he can.

Administrator Brehm said that they are looking for some definitive direction. You have that in a form of a motion this evening. If that motion were to be approved, then they can as staff step forward and come back with the information with specific details as to how they are going to proceed with the direction that is given. Until that direction is given, it is difficult for them to do anything because so many options have been floated out there.

Aldersperson Feddick is not in favor of the motion. She has heard so many conflicting things. This action is not in the best interest of the public. The citizens in her district that she has heard from except for one are in favor of a central station. The survey also said that the citizens are not in favor of a second fire station. Nothing has been done to educate the public. It would have been nice before budget time to hear that they need an additional six (6) additional firefighters. A more definite plan would be nice.

Aldersperson Siegler said that they need to give direction to the Police & Fire Commission and to the Fire Chief as to how the Council wants to move forward. A decision of this nature has not been taken lightly. Getting more information out to the public is extremely important. However defining specific plans is very difficult if the Chief does not have support for a north side fire station or finding additional staff or remodeling the central station. We have an opportunity to move to a higher level of fire protection service by bringing that north side station to reality and to address the inadequate facilities at the central station. When making decisions, not only do you look at the present conditions but you need to look at our future needs. The Council needs to put their support behind the Fire Chief and the Police & Fire Commission so that they can continue to explore the avenues that are most appropriate for our community.

Aldersperson Feirer has sat on the Council for eight years. It is time that a decision is made and we get off the bubble that we are trying to ride all the time. We tend to ride this back and forth. We don't want to make the decision so we make the excuse that maybe there is a better idea. Staffing seemed to be a hot issue during the budget. We wanted to add staffing right there on the spot. We wanted to eliminate people and add. So this is not a new item.

Fire Chief Schmidt responded to some of the comments made. As far as the survey, Aldersperson Feddick indicated that it was a very costly survey and we should go with the desire of the majority of the people that took that survey. But what about the other five studies that have been done. Where is the consideration of those studies? Regarding response times, there have been some independent studies done by individuals and those findings did raise a red flag in his mind. Are the projected statistics that they have accurate? So he looked at the thousands of actual emergency responses in the City of Marshfield. Their response times are going up. Another point that was brought up that he takes extreme exception to is that the public is not informed. He personally has been to four public meetings that have been taped on the public access channel. He has been to a minimum three which is about 2 ½ hours with the Insight program and he has not heard one negative comment on any of those seven venues in

the past 8 months. The cost estimates he did not go into because they are identified in the Capital Improvement Plan. They are identified through 2011. The remodeling of the current fire station includes apparatus area remodeling of 6,600 sq. ft. of about \$198,000. The administration and living area of 6,100 sq. ft. at approximately \$50.00 sq. ft. is \$306,000. That is as specific as he can be right now without going out and putting out an RFP and looking for a Design and Engineering Firm to jump on board with this project. He would love to go to different fire stations throughout the State and see what they are doing and try to build the City the best station that we can with the money that is available but he will not drive around the State until he gets a commitment from the Council that tells him that they are committed to this project. The last item that was discussed was regarding staffing. This did come up during the budget process. His pledge to the Council is to do this project in a step by step logical process and to do it as economically as he possibly can.

Aldersperson Wagner's primary focus on this Council when it comes to spending the people's money is that they spend on the protective services first. Through this entire process what he has been trying desperately to do is to latch on to the most perfect reason he can find for building a station on the north side. He has concluded that a new fire station is needed. They can't even house the new equipment that they have in the station right now. We have been undermanned for many years. This has to be fixed. The question is where is that new station going to go? He doesn't know by building on the north end is going to serve all of the citizens of Marshfield. He has heard from many people and they felt that the consensus of the round table was that a new station is needed because the current one is inadequate and we need the firefighters and their consensus was that it needed to be centrally located. He has heard the arguments for the north side station and looked at the studies and he is still not convinced.

Fire Chief Schmidt responded that what the central station does is it ignores the following:

1. It ignores the past studies. It shoots holes in the credibility of all those studies, people and man hours that went into those studies.
2. It ignores the response time data that was provided.
3. It ignores the Police and Fire Commission's recommendation.
4. It ignores the Fire Chief's recommendation.
5. It ignores the Strategic Plan.
6. It ignores to some extent the Capital Improvement Process.

Where is the long term plan in that option? Where is the vision? What he is trying to provide is consistent with the things that he just mentioned and it doesn't ignore them.

Aldersperson Kraus stated that he drove to different locations to check on response times. The furthest distance on what the Fire Chief provided to the News-Herald and to the Common Council was the Mann Road/Veterans Parkway intersection. That had the longest response time of any. He drove it with the Fire Chief and made it in 5 minutes and 8 seconds. He asked the Fire Chief to drive it with him because he had driven it 3 times and got an average response time of 5 minutes and 10 seconds. So when they are being told that response times are 7 minutes to a certain area and then he drives it and finds out that it doesn't take that long that is where questions come in for him. There are too many things that are in question. By moving it to another site that the Fire Chief and he looked at, you would be reducing the response times to the north and northwest by 45 seconds. It is a viable option that they can look at. Residents that have called him after the round table discussion have said that they want a central location.

There are too many things that did not have basis and fact behind it and that is why he can't support this.

Vote on motion **CC07-446**; Feddick, Kraus, Wagner and Hansen voted Naye, Feirer, Siegler, Krueger, Spiros, Buttke and Hendler voted Aye.

Motion carried

Mayor Meyers wished everyone a very Happy and Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

CC07-447 Motion by Krueger, second by Hansen to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, chapter 19.85 (1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Specifically the City Administrator had requested a closed session to discuss contracts for the development and expansions of TIF No. 7 and TIF No. 8. Roll call vote, all Ayes. (Aldersperson Wagner was not present for the vote) (Time: 7:24 p.m.)

Motion carried

Present in closed session: Alderspersons Feirer, Feddick, Siegler, Kraus, Wagner, Hansen, Krueger, Spiros, Buttke and Hendler, City Administrator Brehm, Mayor Meyers, Attorney Hutchinson, Finance Director Strey, Public Works Director Knoeck, Director of Planning and Economic Development Miller, City Engineer Turchi, Planner/Zoning Administrator Curtiss and City Clerk Hall.

CC07-448 Motion by Krueger, second by Wagner to return to open session. Roll call vote, all Ayes. (Time: 7:57 p.m.)

Motion carried

CC07-449 Motion by Wagner, second by Hendler to authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate a developer's agreement with Don Nikolai Construction pertinent to TIF District No. 7 expanded, and bring it back to the Common Council for their consideration and action (including reference checks). All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-450 Motion by Wagner, second by Krueger to approve Resolution No. 2007-52, proceeding with the amendment of Tax Incremental District No. 7, contingent upon satisfactory reference checks and the execution of a developer's agreement. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-451 Motion by Wagner, second by Hansen to approve the Mayor's appointment of Keith Strey, Finance Director, as the city's representative to the Joint Review Board for the amendment to TIF District No. 7. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-452 Motion by Kraus, second by Siegler to authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate a developer's agreement with the developer pertinent to TIF District No. 8 expanded, and bring it back to the Common Council for their consideration and action (including reference checks). All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-453 Motion by Kraus, second by Siegler to approve Resolution No. 2007-53, proceeding with the amendment of Tax Incremental District No. 8, contingent upon satisfactory reference checks and the execution of a developer's agreement. All Ayes

Motion carried

CC07-454 Motion by Kraus, second by Siegler to approve the Mayor's appointment of Keith Strey, Finance Director, as the city's representative to the Joint Review Board for the amendment to TIF District No. 8. All Ayes

Motion carried

Motion by Krueger, second by Hansen to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Motion carried

Deb M. Hall
City Clerk