



CITY OF WAUWATOSA  
MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER  
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE  
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213  
Telephone: (414) 479-8917  
Fax: (414) 479-8989

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

PRESENT: Alds. Birschel, Donegan (6:33 p.m.), Hanson (7:20 p.m.), Herzog (7:20 p.m.), Jay, Krol (6:14 p.m.), Maher (7:20 p.m.), McBride, Nikcevich, Organ, Purins (6:55 p.m.), (Stepaniak (7:20 p.m.), Walsh

EXCUSED: Alds. Treis, Ewerdt

ABSENT: Ald. Meaux

ALSO Mayor J. Didier; J. Archambo, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Atty.; B. Aldana, Asst. City Atty./HR Dir.; Police Chief B. Weber; Fire Chief D. Redman; W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; N. Welch, Comm. Devel. Dir.; Dr. N. Kreuzer, Health Officer; Asst. Chief Fire Chief M. Anton; Asst. Fire Chief J. Hevey; Deputy Fire Chief M. Carberry; L. Nielsen Pub. Health Nurse Supv.

Ald. Birschel in the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

#### **Police Department**

Chief Weber noted that he has just completed his 18<sup>th</sup> year as police chief and he has worked for 36 years in law enforcement. He has worked for many mayors and he has had six people working for him that have become police chiefs. He is on the faculty of Concordia and Upper Iowa Universities.

With regard to emergencies, the police department tries to notify the Aldermen as soon as possible when they happen. Sometimes other sources have information before they do. He suggested that if Aldermen are being questioned by the media about an incident they should assure the media that the police department is handling the incident and when the police department has the information they will let the media know.

Chief Weber stressed that with regard to Council members requesting specific research and extra reports fulfilling these requests costs the department time and money for every hour spent away from their usual duties. He also emphasized that if there is an issue regarding the police department before the Council he would like to have the opportunity to give his input. He strongly encouraged Council members to contact him. He cited some changes that are being made in the City of Milwaukee police department. When they are implemented the changes will affect the Wauwatosa police department.

With regard to personnel, Chief Weber noted that their budget is about 92% personnel costs and fleet. He added that in every viable business personnel costs are the biggest. He mentioned the issue of overtime and the fact that they look at overtime very critically. Much of it they can't control because of the need for officers to appear in court, to file reports and just the nature of the job. Report writing and training take a lot of time and at time they have to deal with shortages in staff. He stressed that the Milwaukee County Pension scandal painted all public employees as villains, but it is not the case especially in Wauwatosa and the Wauwatosa police department. He noted that they are having difficulty recruiting new officers simply because police work is not what people want to do right now. He further noted that new recruits are shopping between cities to see which ones have the best pay and benefits.

Ald. Krol took over as chair at 6:14 p.m.

Chief Weber emphasized that contrary to some erroneous statements that have been made, city employees do contribute to health care costs. He added that Wisconsin was the first state to recognize collective bargaining for public employees. Public officials need to be careful about making statements that employees get paid too much and their benefits are too much because it deeply affects employee morale. He also noted that they have handled 10 grievances from the police union and none of them went to arbitration.

With regard to organizational structure, there are two segments. They have the operations section and the administration section. The operations section is headed by Capt. Jeff Sutter. This section oversees police patrols and all other aspects of law enforcement. The administration section is headed by Capt. Dale Weiss. This section oversees the police department budget, the community support division and the officers in the schools. He referred to the monthly reports they do which reflect the number of calls they respond to. He cautioned that this number includes any type of call from serious crime to traffic stops. He noted that the calls to Mayfair Mall were down significantly from last year. Disorderly conduct is down approximately 37%. He attributed this decrease to the Parental Guidance Required (PGR) program which cut down on the number of unescorted minors at the mall. He stressed that crime statistics are subject to change from year to year because of they are cyclical in nature. He spoke about the department's citizen complaint policy saying that complaints are documented and they always respond to them.

Ald. Walsh asked if the department sets goals for reducing crime. Chief Weber said their goal is always to have a zero percent crime rate. When they measure crime rate statistics they sometimes have to wait for a while to see if programs such as PGR or the new School Resource Officers are working.

Ald. Walsh asked if Mayfair Mall security contract with the police department is subsidized and if there was an end date. Chief Weber said that General Growth Properties as the owners of Mayfair Mall subsidizes one officer and one squad car. He added that it is an open ended contract and General Growth Properties is very pleased with the how well it has worked.

### **Fire Department**

Chief Redman commented that he joined the fire service in 1971 and he has completed 37 years of service. He has been with the City of Wauwatosa for 11.5 years as the Fire Chief. He was a graduate of the Western Illinois University fire science program.

Chief Redman noted some key events in Wauwatosa history relating to the fire department. He commented that the Wauwatosa Fire Department was organized in 1897. This was in response to a major fire in the village area which prompted the citizens to organize a municipal fire department. They moved into Underwood Avenue in 1942. In 1952 approximately eight miles was added to the city by annexing the Town of Wauwatosa. In 1973 Wauwatosa became the second paramedic unit in the county and in 1981 they began to provide fire protection to the County Grounds. In 1981 they lost two members of the fire staff to a major fire in the city. In 1998 the interim Fire Chief reached an agreement with Ald. Ralph McCarthy to bring a Quint program into the city. The impact is that every year his department saves \$750,000 in operating costs. He noted that they are doing things more efficiently with tax dollars. The expansion of the paramedic program is another cost effective measure. They operate two full time ambulances and a third ambulance about two-thirds of the time.

Chief Redman highlighted some key issues the department is dealing with. They are currently meeting with the architect for the new fire station #1 to complete the design for the building. They hope to have final approval for the designs in the by early next year. They plan to issue construction contracts in the spring and they are looking forward to having the new fire station in place by 2010.

Chief Redman noted some concerns with Fire Stations #2 and #3. In Fire Station #2 the trucks are too tall to fit through the doors just as they are in Fire Station #1. They are working with the engineering department for a solution that will cost approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000. That way they will be able to get another 10 to 20 years out of that building. Fire Station #3 has quite a bit of useful life left in it. Fire Stations #2 and #3 need fire sprinkler systems installed and these have been included in the Capitol requests. He added that with regard to equipment they will need to replace two of the Quints.

With regard to the paramedic program, Chief Redman noted that 70% of their calls are paramedic related. They would like to have about 27 paramedics in their units. Milwaukee County is looking to reduce the amount of funding they provide. It is not a huge amount, but it still affects their ability to provide service. He noted that changes Milwaukee County provided allowed the department to expand to three units. The city has taken over the billing and increased the revenue.

Chief Redman reported that personnel costs make up about 95% of the operations. He noted that the Governor has said they are going to cut the fat not personnel. If 95% of the budget is personnel cutting any significant fat out of other parts of the budget is not a reasonable expectation. He added that over the next three to five years they will be changing about four positions in administrative staff.

Chief Redman didn't anticipate any significant budget issues. They will also be submitting a staffing plan. He stressed that the fire department has overtime for different reasons from the police department. Their overtime has been very low for the last two years. He noted that they will not always use money for new position, but they will use it for overtime.

Ald. Donegan asked why it was less expensive to pay overtime than to fill a number of open positions. Chief Redman responded that the actual cost between overtime and full time employees is in pennies. There are three crews. If they don't fill a position that only creates about 1,200 to 1,500 hours of overtime. They are looking for a way to bring staffing level up; however, instead of spending that money on more staff they would use overtime and that would ultimately cost less.

### **Public Works**

Mr. Kappel told the committee that comparative analysis of stormwater usage throughout the state reflects the value of belonging to government organizations. He advised that if Council members or their constituents need to call for assistance they should call the public works department. Calling him directly may slow down the response time. He also advised that residents be instructed to call Waste Management directly with any missed recycling collections. His department does not always know what happens on a specific collection route, but if the resident is having repeated problems with recycling then he (Mr. Kappel) should be notified. He added that most of the bugs are worked out with the recycling program. He mentioned that Council members may also get calls pertaining to the street sweeper. He explained that the street sweeper is rented from the City of Milwaukee and is run over night.

Mr. Kappel reported that the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has started a Capacity Management Operations Maintenance (CMOM) program. The department has milestones that they have to meet by next summer. One of the tasks is writing out a policy. He noted that Council members will hear a lot about Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) including peak flow testing in the sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Kappel noted that the rebuilding of the zoo interchange will be a big endeavor. The first thing to be decided is what will be constructed. Mass Transit may be an issue the Council may want to weigh in on.

With regard to traffic, Mr. Kappel commented that there are 500 changes in traffic control standards that the city may have to pay for. Countdown lights like the one at 76<sup>th</sup> Street and North Avenue will be mandated along with 12 inch signals. Signs will have to be changed to be more readable. His department

will be continuing with the single stream recycling system and they will continue to look at alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuel. He stressed that his department has always met the clean air standards.

In closing, Mr. Kappel invited Council members to contact him any time they would like a tour of the public works building and Hart Park.

Ald. Donegan asked what pieces of the city's infrastructure Mr. Kappel was most concerned about as well as areas where the city is vulnerable to any unplanned costly repairs. Mr. Kappel responded that the age of the city's infrastructure underground is what comes to mind first. It may not be as well maintained as he would like to see. He noted that during the recent Budget and Finance Committee meetings there was a lot of discussion about what conditions regarding the infrastructure the Council would be willing to accept. His department was charged with addressing these projects without spending too much money. He cautioned that there are certain mandates from the state that the city will have to address. He also noted that the hole in the 70<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge was not foreseen.

### **Health**

Dr. Kreuser reported that as a public health agency they are charged with protecting the health and safety of the entire population as well as trying to reduce and eliminate know risks factors to the public. She explained that public health looks at prevention which can have a huge cost savings for the community. Many of life's improvements are directly related to health matters such as safe food, clean air, public pools, free vaccines and health screening. The health department encompasses 13 jurisdictions and has local control over services and funding. They have to satisfy a number of state statutes and qualifications for the nurses, supervisors and her position as Health Officer. The health department also works with the regional medical complex.

Dr. Kreuser explained that local health departments address many issues. The latest was the Measles outbreak. Wauwatosa only had seven cases, but they monitored a number of people to track the disease. In addition to health education they enforce sanitation laws and respond to public health emergencies. They are also part of the operations group for the city's emergency operations. Another task for the department is performing a youth behavior risk survey for grades 9 through 11. Her department also belongs to an advisory committee for the Wauwatosa School District. The helped resurrect the Tosa United group to address substance abuse in this age group.

Dr. Kreuser noted that their priorities for 2010 are communicable disease prevention, environmental health issues, comprehensive health research and studies on obesity. They are required to educate the Council and citizens about health issues. She noted that there is a difference between advocacy and lobbying. They do not do lobbying which is the act of trying to influence legislators. They work with the legal department to make sure that they do not cross those lines.

Dr. Kreuser pointed out that constituents might want to know about subjects such as diseases and the danger of lead based paint. They might also want information on free immunizations and other types of injections as well as the safety of dining out. She encouraged Council members to communicate any major concerns. Council members and constituents can call the help line which is staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. They may not always provide health serviced directly, but they do try to direct people to the place where they can best get help. She pointed out that the people in her department are health care providers and as such they many times have health protected information which means that sometimes they are not at liberty to discuss outcomes.

Dr. Kreuser noted that some of her department's future initiatives are: 1) organizing a senior transportation committee, 2) independent evaluation of the smoke free ordinance, 3) Safe Food Crew

educational models adapted from the City of Madison, and 4) working with pilot restaurants in Wauwatosa to provide healthy food choice.

Dr. Kreuser cautioned that public health staffing is aging and they may have difficulty in the future hiring new staff. They are also reviewing existing and new ordinances and preparing for national accreditation. The Wauwatosa Health Department is a Level 3 health department and they provide the highest level of service efficiently and discreetly.

Ald. McBride asked if the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee School of Public Health is having an impact. Dr. Kreuser responded that she is a member of the community advisory committee and looking for a certification in public health. It is a step in the right direction.

Ald. Birschel asked about cases of health hazards in specific properties. Dr. Kreuser responded that she could not address specific cases because of protected health information. The Board of Health does look into neighbor's concerns regarding blighted properties. They are also using the recently passed Nuisance Ordinance to address more serious situations.

### **Community Development**

Ms. Welch reported that Community Development encompasses quite a bit of different areas the three major areas being: 1) the Building and Safety Division, 2) the Planning Division, and 3) Maintenance of the municipal complex and the police station. Ms. Welch explained that the Building and Safety Division's primary goal is to protect public health and safety.

Ms. Welch noted that the Planning Division's goals encompass protecting the quality of life in the community which includes laying out the development of the city in a way that is beneficial to residential and commercial interests. The zoning code allows for healthy economic development in the city. Planning staff has been involved in Hart Park planning, acquisition in the flood plain, and developing zoning guidelines for preventing check cashing establishments from locating in the city.

Ms. Welch said the Building and Safety Division has processed a total of 4,657 permits and generated over \$1 million in fees for the city. The number one phone call they receive is property maintenance complaints. Any property maintenance complaints Council members receive should be directed to the property maintenance inspector. Along those lines she related that Gregg Blando, the Property Maintenance Inspector, finds up to 89 voice mails on his phone on any given day. He wanted to stress that if Council members get calls from residents saying he didn't return their calls it is most likely because a majority of those 89 callers did not leave a name or number to be contacted and did not leave even the address of the property they were complaining about. Many of them just gave him a description of the property in a general location. He has so many complaints to follow up on that do have the correct complainant address and phone number as well as the address of the property they are reporting that he could not possibly drive around the city looking for properties with vague locations and descriptions. He advised Council members to encourage residents to clearly leave their own contact information as well as the specific address of the property they are reporting.

Ms. Welch noted that Dave Wheaton is the Chief Building Official overseeing the enforcement of the building code. Anything related to the permit process and codes should be referred to him. Any general complaints should be given to Karl Schreiber and Kathy Martens.

Ms. Welch commented that the City of Wauwatosa is a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) community receiving approximately \$1.3 million per year. Over 50% of one of one of two the Planner's time is spent on reports to the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and talking with recipients. The CDBG produces funding for a number of community services; however, they are

limited by law to no more than 20% of the funding going to each service organization. She stressed that certain organizations may feel strongly that they are entitled to more money, but her office is limited by the federal guidelines for funding. If Council members have any questions regarding the CDBG program they can contact Jennifer Ferguson. Historic preservation is handled by Tammy Szudy among other planning responsibilities. Ms. Welch encouraged Council members to contact her with any questions.

Ms. Welch addressed applications for Conditional Uses, Special Uses and Land Divisions. These approvals or denials are given by the City Plan Commission. She stressed that there are definite land use laws and staff recommendations are always based on the technical issues never any subjective criterion. Sometimes there may be applications for projects Council members may not like, but the applicants have every legal right to proceed as long as they are within the zoning code requirements. Applicants cannot be denied just because a commissioner does not like the project or the applicant. Every denial must have a clear legal basis cited in the motion. She stressed that they always want to be fair in their decisions and not arbitrary or capricious.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

svh