



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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SPECIAL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Committee Room #2

PRESENT: Alds. Berdan, Donegan, Jay, Krol, Organ, Walsh, Wilke – 7

EXCUSED: Ald. Ewerdt

ALSO PRESENT: Alds. Birschel, McBride; J. Archambo, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Attorney;
R. Braier, Finance Dir.; W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; W. Wehrley, City
Engineer

Ald. Walsh as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Sanitary sewer service

Mr. Wehrley reported that he contacted a number of communities and put together some information. He noted that four municipalities got through two rain events without any basement backups. Wauwatosa is on the wetter side of the other municipalities. He noted that percentage wise, Wauwatosa ranks 12th in the percentage of homes with basement backups. The type of rain event the city gets has a strong effect on the city's backups. He suggested that Wauwatosa should trend toward mitigating backups. To go from a 5-year event to a 100-year event they would need to install 27 inch pipe. The current pipes are 18 inches. He further suggested taking each area of the city on a case by case basis. If the decision is to do all the improvements in the public sector, that is the most expensive. Another question is if the city should be imposing the cost on residents or sharing the cost. He thought the committee was moving in the general direction of doing something to address the problem instead of doing nothing.

Mr. Kappel noted that the purpose of this meeting was to give information so the committee can determine the level of service and how to remove clean water from the system.

Mr. Braier referred to his memo outlining some methods that can be used to finance improvements. Some of the methods assist the homeowner, but the costs are theirs and some methods are financing through the city. All the financing systems outlined are in place at this time.

Ald. Herzog was concerned about having the seller come up with the money. He suggested using escrow and matching funds with the city or funding from the seller. Mr. Kesner commented that the city could do that instead of requiring that the improvements be done at the point of sale.

Ald. Donegan expressed appreciation for the way the staff is trying to take the committee through all the information. He asked how much of the storm water will be handled by city pipes and how much by the homeowner's pipes.

Ald. Wilke asked to see how these options would work for the Ruby Avenue project.

Mr. Wehrley responded to Ald. Donegan's question saying that it is difficult to come up with an answer because the characteristics of each neighborhood are different.

Moved by Ald. Organ, seconded by Ald. Donegan to hold this item for the next meeting --

Ald. Donegan commented that he would like to take one area at a time.

Vote on the motion was Ayes: 7

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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