



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE
WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN 53213
Telephone: (414) 479-8917
Fax: (414) 479-8989
Web Site: www.wauwatosa.net

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Committee Room #1

- PRESENT:** Alds. Krol, Ewerdt, Donegan, Jay, Meaux, McBride, Wilke, Birschel, Stepaniak (6:09), Hanson (6:14), Dennik (6:40) – 11
- ABSENT:** Alds. Herzog, Walsh
- EXCUSED:** Ald. Organ, Berdan, Nikcevich
- ALSO PRESENT:** J. Archambo, City Administrator, Mayor Didier; A. Kesner, City Atty.; B. Aldana, Asst. City Atty./HR Director; R. Braier, Fin. Dir.; W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; D. Redman, Fire Chief; B. Weber, Police Chief; N. Kreuser, Health Officer; M. Murphy, Library Dir.; N. Welch, Comm. Dev. Dir.; J. Wojcehowicz, Water Supt.; S. Miner, City Assessor; K. Ehley, Business Improvement District

Ald. Krol as Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Strategic Planning Session

Ald. Krol told the council that tonight's meeting is something unique and not often done. This is an opportunity to discuss issues for the near future and the long run. In 2005 the Council determined long term goals should be set. Tonight we will spend time getting ideas on what the council should focus on.

Ald. Krol had a list of items that were suggested to him by council members prior to the meeting. He asked that this list be reviewed and ranked according to importance. The two top ideas that were requested beforehand for discussion this evening were council size and the 2010 budget.

The council members expressed concern over some of the items on the list. They felt that several items on the list are technical issues not part of strategic planning. Though important issues the committee didn't feel they should be on the list.

Economic development and redevelopment was deemed important to the city as well as infrastructure improvements. The council size was considered strategic and could be discussed at a later time, due to time constraints.

Ald. Birschel thought it would be helpful if the council knew what projects are coming up and what needs to be prioritized. He said the council needs to know what the city will be spending money on next year. Ald. Krol said a lot of these are tactical items. Ald. Birschel said he wants to find out ahead of time what the needs are and strategize.

Ald. McBride questioned the ongoing discussion on how it is related to strategic planning. He asked Ald. Krol if he intended for this to be an ongoing process. Ald. Krol said yes if the council wants to. Ald. Krol said the last time the council met for strategic planning was about five years ago.

Ald. Meaux said he was confused why the 2010 budget would be on the list. He said the council should be looking out to the next two or three budget years. There are too many different ideas presented on the list. He felt that in some respects the council was being asked to prioritize the budget when frankly, it is an administrative policy to be made.

Ald. Krol said he asked the City Administrator to give the council an outlook of the 2010 budget. Mr. Archambo gave the council a very preliminary overview of what the 2010 budget may look like. He said the budget takes hundreds of hours to be put together. He discussed items that may be an increase to the budget which include a reduction in state aid, wage settlement 2.75%, wage step increase, debt service increase, recycling fee, projected retirement fund contributions, and workers compensation which total over \$2,000,000. Items that may decrease the budget include ambulance fees, applied surplus, and the health insurance fund. This could be a potential levy increase of about 3.3%. Mr. Archambo said the goal is for no assessed value change and only allowing growth to 0%. He said they are working on how to get to that point. One possible significant way is with rolling vacancies, not immediately filling vacant positions.

Ald. Birschel asked the department directors in attendance if they anticipated any big items coming up in the budget. Were there any items the council should be made aware of? Chief Redman noted that there is a fire truck in the capital improvement budget for 2010, reworking of the door height at fire station #2, and the women's restroom needs to be finished at station #2.

Ald. Krol said that the City of Wauwatosa is better off than many communities. Mr. Archambo noted that because of the strong property values we rely very little on state revenue. He said our revenue source is very sound.

The council suggested the following ideas for possible further discussion:

- Program budgeting
- Ethanol
- Grow Motorcycle Fleet
- Staffing levels
- Negative levy
- Infrastructure – pick up spending
- Economic development – pick up spending; and redevelopment districts
- Current level city services
- Review fee schedule
- Moratorium on capital spending
- Every other week garbage collections
- 3 – 5 year outlook
- Intergovernmental agreements
- Fire department study – to be discussed at committee level?

Ald. Meaux said staffing levels need to be looked at. He said rolling vacancies is a onetime fix for 2010 after that it will reset itself. He said small initiatives need to be taken to address some staffing issues. He said the city needs to be looking beyond 2010. Ald. Meaux said the only way to contain the budget is by staffing levels or efficiencies. He has had a concern about an immediate hiring as discussed at the last few meetings.

Ald. Dennik said he is concerned about the 2010 budget and beyond. He said there is nothing but problems on the horizon. Tax dollars are only going to go so far. If the school district taxes go up substantially that will be a big problem. He questioned what will happen if the city loses three or four percent of assessed values of homes and commercial property. He suggested that maybe a consultant be hired to help the city plan.

Ald. Meaux said he is glad that the discussion of the school district was brought up. He said we cannot ignore state aid being cut. Perhaps from this point forward some discussion should start with the school district, looking at intergovernmental agreements.

Ald. McBride said that regarding economic redevelopment, now is the time to plan when there is time to plan. He agreed that the city really needs to look at intergovernmental agreements and how this would be phased in.

Ald. Krol said if the council wants to pursue this any further a format could be put together. He said he wanted the council to have an opportunity to see what the outlook is for the upcoming budget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

mks