

**CITY OF WAUWATOSA**  
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**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Special Meeting -Tuesday, January 21, 2003**  
**Committee Room #2**

PRESENT: Alds. Bruderle-Baran, Casey (7:23 p.m.), Grimm, Jenkins, McCarthy, Matthews, Subotich, Stepaniak -8

ALSO PRESENT: T. Wontorek, City Administrator; P. Coffaro, Asst. to Admin.

Ald. Stepaniak as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.

**Citywide survey**

Mr. Wontorek complimented Mr. Coffaro on his work with the survey, but expressed concern with its length. He explained that the intent of the survey was primarily to focus on citizen acceptance of current service levels or what reductions in service would be acceptable. Mr. Wontorek said the survey questions on page one of the draft survey are not directed to this focus. Pages two and three focus on satisfaction of current service levels, but he felt the questions could be tightened up. Question #8 on the third page deals with perceived problems in the city and not directly with the target information. Pages five and six have good questions, but he felt they could be tightened up and questions about immunization clinics and violation notification eliminated. Mr. Wontorek also proposed to eliminate questions about city hall hours because any change in this area would not save a great deal of money, with the exception of closing the front office at the police station between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Mr. Wontorek distributed copies of a draft that "tightened up" survey questions from four to two pages to focus on service levels and whether to maintain, reduce or eliminate them.

Ald. Jenkins said the committee is looking for areas of the budget to cut. He felt the questions on page two should be asked more directly such as "If budget cuts are necessary ....." He agreed the survey should be shortened because the longer it is the less likely people will fill it out. In response to Ald. Jenkins question about how the surveys will be returned, Mr. Coffaro said they will be placed in the city newsletter along with a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope.

Ald. Matthews said she would like to add a question about holiday trash pickup. She said she liked the first draft's questions that attached a dollar amount to a service. She asked if the city will try to get local press coverage about the survey. Mr. Wontorek said there could be a press release sent to the media.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran agreed with Ald. Jenkins' statement. She asked if for a sentence to be added to the survey about how the results will impact the budget deliberations for next year, i.e., whether the leaf collection process should be changed. Mr. Wontorek said that upon reflection, he would leave out the option about increasing service levels.

Ald. Casey agreed that the survey should be made as succinct as possible. He said he would like to see more questions about Hart Park future expansion and increase of services, but said he was not sure this survey will lend itself to decisions about Hart Park. Responding to a question about who will receive the survey, Mr. Coffaro said homeowners, renters and business owners will all receive the survey and have an opportunity to respond. Ald. Casey felt that business owners, while not heavy users of city services, have very strong opinions about services. Ald. McCarthy felt that renters will be more likely to respond in favor of maintaining current service levels.

Ald. Stepaniak suggested that space for comments be added at the end of the survey to allow citizens to express their thoughts. He felt the questions about demographics were not necessary and people might not want to answer the survey if they are included. He said a final draft of the survey will be presented to the committee next week.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
City of Wauwatosa

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