

MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(Tuesday, September 16, 2014) Generated by Mary Rajer on Wednesday, September 17, 2014

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Action, Procedural:

1.1 Call to Order - Chairperson Donohue called the meeting to order at 6: 10 PM.

Action, Procedural:

1.2 Roll Call - 14 Alderpersons present: Belanger, Bitters, Bohren, Carlson, Damrow, Dassler, Donohue, Hammond, Heidemann, Hermann, Kath, Lessard, Matichek, Thiel, 2 Alderpersons excused: Van Akkeren, VanderWeele

Action, Procedural:

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance - The pledge was recited by all present.

Action, Procedural:

1.4 Approval of the Minutes - On a motion by Ald. Hammond, second by Ald. Carlson, the minutes from the meetings of August 28, 2013 and June 25, 2014 were approved as written. All Ayes.

Action:

1.5 Public Forum - no speakers.

2. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Action:

2.1 Discussion of 2015 budget appropriations and tax levy. Ald. Hammond gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2015 City of Sheboygan Budget. It showed that after the full budget was reviewed by the standing committees and referred to the Finance Committee the deficit was \$1,047,102. Finance reviewed and referred to Council with the recommendation to make up the deficit by extending the garbage fee until 2018 (\$869,000), reduction of employee benefit expenses due to plan changes (\$206,000) and eliminating a PT clerical position previously approved in Building Inspection (\$15,000). The presentation outlined future challenges and considerations as well as other options to help make up the deficit. A lengthy discussion ensued on ways to reduce the deficit. Some of the ideas suggested were to raise the tax levy the max to eliminate \$500,000 and make up the rest by furloughs for employees, reducing the garbage fee to net number after raising the tax levy, increase cost of benefits to employees, layoffs, taking money from capital expenditures, possibly closing the 9 th Street Fire Station, not replacing upcoming fire dept. retirees, extend garbage fee for a few years and roll over into the tax levy. It would not be a good year to roll over into the tax levy because of the revaluations being done this year. If furloughs are considered to make up the \$360,000 it would mean about 2.2 hours each week for each non-represented employee. Furloughs could also reduce services and could temporarily close some city service windows. Ald. Lessard asked the Council to support her request for a new hire of a part-time Code Enforcement Officer in the Building Inspection Department. She stated that this position would generate revenue, address the needs of the city, as well as pay for the part time position as there are no benefits. President Hammond explained how the garbage fee began, why it was named such and it really wasn't just a fee to plug a hole as some people have suggested. The City had looked at outsourcing garbage and had received a quote for \$12.50 and determined that by

adding a fee for the collection of garbage to go into the general fund (all garbage people are in general fund),

garbage collection could still be kept in-house and it could be done more effectively, efficiently and cheaper than it could have been done on the outside.

3. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Action:

3.1 Res. No. 67 - 14 - 15 by Ald. Hammond regarding extension of the special charge for residential garbage and refuse disposal services provided by the City through December 31, 2018. Motion by Ald. Hammond, second by Ald. Carlson to recommend approval to Council.

Final Resolution:

Motion passes. Aye: Belanger, Bitters, Carlson, Damrow, Dassler, Donohue, Hammond, Hermann, Lessard, Thiel, No: Bohren, Heidemann, Kath, Matichek

4. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

Action:

4.1 Motion to convene in closed session under the exemption provided in Section

19.85 (1)(e) for the purpose of discussion and formulation of negotiating strategies relative to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process where bargaining reasons require a closed session. Motion to convene in closed session made by Ald. Hammond, second by Ald. Carlson. All ayes.

5. CLOSING OF MEETING Action,

Information:

5.1 NEXT MEETING: TBD

Action:

5.2 ADJOURN. Motion to adjourn and second at 9: 45 PM.