



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

January 8, 2014

AGENDA

- Snow Plowing
- Hauling (Waste) Companies
- Insurance for Elected Officials
- Monday Council Meeting
- Other City Topics

WELCOME

Thank you for coming. Agenda will cover current city issues; waste hauler; and 2014 topics.

SNOW PLOWING

Recent snow fall and cold weather kept Public Works busy with snow removal and salting of streets. Geomelt - beet juice mixed with salt brine is used to keep ice/snow from sticking to the road in colder temperatures. Salt will not melt ice in sub-zero weather. Small amount of complaints on snow plowing were heard in the 3rd Ward.

City plows sidewalks in the Oakton corridor and Miner Street. Lee Street between Oakton and Giuseppe's is not plowed by the city. Miner Street plowing is covered by TIF, and Oakton corridor is plowed because city owns the parking lane and is responsible to plow near city property.

Contractors were used to plow the 7th Ward.

HAULING (WASTE) COMPANIES

City is down to 2 Disposal Company proposals: Groot and Republic. Groot has been around for more than 100 years and gave an excellent proposal offering the city:

- 4 natural gas vehicles
- Access to the fuel station for city use in the future for city owned NG trucks.
- \$5 recycling rebate for the city
- 100 ton free disposal of yard waste
- Free spring cleanup
- Free electronics residential pick up

Groot provided letters of recommendation.

Republic came in lower by \$0.30. Denise heard from residents of their satisfaction with the current disposal company and how residents have bonded with their waste truck drivers. Issues regarding customer service with Republic were addressed by representative last month to the 3rd Ward. Other than the customer service issue there have been no major concerns with Republic.

Flood Brothers was not in the final three selected. Council stuck to the original plan to have 3 out of the 6 present. Flood Brothers proposal came in higher than what residents are currently paying for waste disposal. Flood Brothers representative talked at the Council meeting about their company but not as a part of the negotiations.

Leaf Pick Up: None added this feature to their proposal stating that this was not their 'expertise'. Suggestion was to go out for proposals on leaf pick up services. Public Works currently does leaf pick up, so why can't Public Works continue? It is an efficiency thing with Public Works doing it and cost. Because leaf pick up goes into snow season, sometimes making it rough to change trucks from leaf season to another.

If there is a senior discount, who is going to make up the difference? This will be handled/answered in negotiations.

What about changing the ordinance on trash? Current ordinance is to put waste containers out after 6 p.m. in summer and 4 p.m. in winter. Those attending Wednesday's meeting are fine with putting out containers the day before, as long as it is within a 24 hours of pick up. City needs to take into consideration those residents who work a night shift and containers may be put out prior to the allotted city time. Any disadvantages? Maybe the aesthetic looks of the city. This will be discussed further at next council meeting.

INSURANCE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS: Insurance Benefits are offered to our elected officials (Denise has opted not to take the insurance) and is looking for opinions from the 3rd Ward residents. Healthcare cost for the city is \$100k/year for elected officials.

A survey of other municipalities in the Northwest Municipal Council shows only Palatine and Des Plaines offer health care to elected officials. Alderman receive a \$3,000 yearly stipend plus \$1,800 in expenses. Once elected officials leave the office, healthcare policy ends.

- Would putting perks into the elected office attract more people? Preference is a person who wants to give of their time to help their community as opposed to getting in for the health care. Though, understand the question that certain perks such as Health Care benefits might bring out more people willing to give of their time.
- What advantages are there to run for an elected official? Because you love what you are doing (similar to being a volunteer).
- Is it possible for elected officials to participate in the health care plan but not at the taxpayers' expense? Researching options.

Hired employee and elected officials are offered exactly the same health care benefits.

MONDAY COUNCIL MEETING:

Gleason's/Odisho's: Auto Repair located at Wolf and Golf Roads is requesting conditional use to sell 7 cars. Proposal includes surrounding the property with a wrought iron fence and landscaping.

\$30K Bill: There is a tradition of making a pilgrimage to the Maryville Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe each year and city provides Police for the event. Des Plaines does get press coverage from the event but the City has absorbed most of the cost in the past except for \$4K. Police Chief was informed of the additional manpower required for this year's event and Maryville was charge \$30,000 for the extra Police presence. City does have a strategic budget that includes events and this is being looked at by Finance Chairman.

Islamic Lawsuit: Lawsuit is active but nothing is happening. Building on vacant property is not cost efficient for the group It is a zoning issue on why group cannot use building located in an industrial area.

Bus Shelter: Removed and destroyed. City needs a new one. City asked the people that built the train depot to do the bus shelter. This was pulled from the agenda because Council prefers that it go out for bid.

- Projects out to bid – does the city need to contact companies or do they contact us? City Clerk has a list that we can go to if we want to go out to bid.

Des Plaines Theater: There is a deadline to the owners that building needs to be brought up to code by middle of month (January). There are several issues that are not up to code. When building was renovated, it was renovated to code. Classic Cinema was not interested in the Theater. Tammen Group, the economic development contractor is working on this project.

CITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: George Sakas is new Community Development Manager that comes to us from Schiller Park. He is just starting to pick up projects. Does he get a list of vacant properties? City has downloaded a new software program that provides this information. Example: Mexican restaurant at Ellinwood and Pearson closed but is looking at the location that once was Old Time Ribs. George Sakas will join next month's 3rd Ward meeting.

CITY WIDE ISSUES

Water Main Break: Oakton and Lee water main break made the news. No other details available.

Cars Blocking Sidewalks: Denise spoke to Police Chief and stated Officers use their judgment of blocked sidewalks. Police Department can be called if seeing the same car continuously blocking a sidewalk.

Emergency Fund: Does the city have a large emergency fund? Yes. We had hoped to get Federal Declaration but we didn't. April flood costs came out of the General Fund.

Noise Ordinance: Noise ordinance will be reviewed since city does not have one. City does issue permits for amplified sounds.

City Manager is meeting with each Alderman and Mayor. Denise is asking if there are any issues to take to the City Manager. Provide

Restaurants:

- Grazie!: Nothing new.
- Caliente: Mexican restaurant at Ellinwood and Pearson closed but is looking at another location.
- Beacon Tap: Anything new on rumor that they are closing. City has not been notified of closing nor heard. Bar is part of a large parcel of land.

Light at Lee and Forrest: Light is budgeted and slated to be installed. State has the lead.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, at Prairie Lakes, 7:00 p.m.

Guest: George Sakas, Community Development Manager.

TO CONTACT DENISE

- Please contact Denise at drodd@desplaines.org or call/text (847) 514-6318
- Facebook is set up for the 3rd Ward: www.Facebook.com/DP3rdWard (or search DP3)
 - Twitter: @Denise Rodd
 - Web Site: www.3rdWard.org