



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

September 10, 2014

City of Des Plaines recently lost one of its own, 7th Ward Alderman, Joanna Sojka passed away unexpectedly. The Residents of the 3rd Ward would like to send our sincerest condolences to the Sojka Family on the loss of a daughter and sister.

AGENDA

- Budget
- 7th Ward
- Trains
- Water Line
- Trees and Other Issues

WELCOME

Thank you for coming. Residents suggested the meeting open with a moment of silence for 7th Ward Alderman Joanna Sojka.

BUDGET 2015

Council received a draft budget at Monday's council meeting from the Finance Director and will be available to public next day. Two meetings are set aside to review with a 3rd meeting for any final decisions. It's the Council's discretion to agree or not to any particulars.

First half of the Budget is for the General Fund, which includes the different departments. Police Chief wants to hire 10 additional officers with 1 K-9 unit. City Manager was not receptive to hiring 10 officers at once in the 2014 budget, instead prefers to break up the hiring of officers over a period of time and to hire officers with multiple responsibilities.

Second half of meeting covers special funds such as Library. The Alderman's insurance is under the employee benefits tab. The City paid \$118,000 in insurance expenses for elected officials in 2014. Denise continues to debate the subject of discontinuing insurance for incoming elected officials.

Alternative fuel consultant being hired to review alternative fuels for city vehicles (money is budgeted for consultant fee) and we will complete and use this study - not drop as in the past. City is reviewing alternative fuels, i.e. natural gas, electric and LP. Biodiesel fuel is made from soy beans. Budgeted funds will count towards city vehicles currently being used.

Branding initiative is on-going and budgeted.

There are 2 Sunset Taxes (called sunset because taxes were voted to have an expiration).

- Motor Fuel Tax – \$0.02 a gallon taxes on gasoline that is added at the stations. Gas stations are not happy with the gas tax. Residents were mixed on the gas tax. One resident suggested keeping the gas tax as a reserve so that we don't run out and cause a large deficit later.
- Sewer Tax - \$0.83 on resident's water bill. Residents attending expressed that if it helps the city's water/sewer system, it should be kept.

7th WARD: Don Smith appointed as the interim alderman for the 7th Ward until the next Aldermanic elections when he can decide to run for the position for the next 2 years. Choice can go to Legal & Licensing if there are questions regarding the replacement candidate. If Council does not approve, Mayor can appoint a second appointee, if still not approved, Mayor can appoint one of the two candidates. State requires a replacement be named within 30 days of the appointment. Aldermen are scheduling meetings with Don Smith. (As of the last City Council Meeting, the appointing of Don Smith as interim alderman was tabled till October 6.)

TRAIN HUMMING:

Past few weeks, residents around the railroad crossings of Thacker and Wolf have been noticing a high pitch hum when trains past through these intersections. Denise checked with a train spotter who mentioned that the train grinder went through recently. Railroad, when asked, confirmed the grinder and further stated that the hum could be from the recent grinding and once rails wears down, noise will go away.

NW Water Contract

Water contract is on the Agenda for Monday's Council Meeting. North West Water Commission approved Des Plaines to join, initially, as a customer to purchase water. In the future, we could become a member...members are allowed to vote on who can become a customer.

Water will come through Evanston and through different pipes. Station will be at Wolf and Central and NW Commission has a pipe pumping through Kensington and Wolf. Contract for 7 years with approximately 10k gallons a day; we are capped for the length of contract and Des Plaines will continue to receive water from Chicago along with NW Commission water. January 2016 is when water is expected to be connected. Takes time to get all connected, though, Residents will see a savings in their bills.

Des Plaines has 2 pumping stations, the station at Maple and Central is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a Public Works person. Will staff be added to staff both stations once second station is up and running?

CITY WIDE ISSUES

Des Plaines Theatre: Still an ongoing issue. Current owner is not talking.

Trees: Many Ash Trees taken down in Des Plaines with trees to continue to come down through the rest of year. Those residents that had trees taken down will receive a letter with a list of trees offered for purchasing at a cost of \$50. Budget covers the portion of tree's cost.

Streets Resurfacing/Flood Relief: Resurfacing of streets continues to progress...Thacker from Wolf east to the RR tracks. Included in street/flood relief renovation are curbs, sewers and alleys. Hydrants are being upgraded along with the water main. Thank you Casino revenue!

Noise Ordinance: 65 decibels is noise limit. Police will be equipped with a noise meter.

Ambulance: First ambulance is in and being readied for service and test driven. Second ambulance on order.

Fall Fest: September 12 – 14.

9/11 Memorial: Remembrance service took place at the Beam outside City Hall.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 8, at Prairie Lakes, 7:00 p.m.

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