



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

August 10, 2016

AGENDA:

- Community Update
- Engineering
- Public Works
- Budget

CITYWIDE DEVELOPMENT: There is a lot going on in the city.

- Senior Independent Living: No new information. Denise referred Builder to the City Manager regarding residents not happy with construction and discussion to reconsider this location.
- TIF 7: Manheim and Higgins [Does not include McDonalds]: 2nd reading last meeting. City owns the property and has sold it to a developer that is going to put a Holiday Inn Express on the location. Holiday Inn is taking their “flag” from the current location in Rosemont, which is across the street. There will also be a stand-alone national restaurant. Construction is this fall with the hotel being built first then the restaurant.
- Lee Street Complex: Special Council Meeting approved 1st reading on the Lee Street complex that encompasses Casa Royale, Old Tyme Ribs strip, and Good News Church.
 - What about traffic on Lee Street during construction? Should be okay. There will be a fabric type fence around the construction and it is going to be built methodically starting at the Casa Royale end. The structure will have apartment buildings facing both Lee and Center with the garages in the center.
- Sims Bowl – Ellinwood Corridor: There is a developer interest in the Ellinwood Corridor that includes Sims Bowl, Tin Lizzie, Olivetti’s and goes up to (not including) the Heritage. No details, other than a proposed 7-story residential building.
- Over the Rainbow - Graceland: This is the home for people with disabilities. Looking to break ground soon. Builder getting required permits.
- Northwest Place and Grant: Construction going on to do sewer repairs and new water mains. Sidewalks and Curbs are being added.

ENGINEERING:

- Miner Street Pedestrian Crosswalk: City contacted I DOT asking for an evaluation of the crosswalk and for stop bars. City asked state for additional signage such as a push button rapid blinking beacon (yellow), State responded with a formal safety assessment and to put up another sign for drivers to stop if pedestrians are in crosswalk. Assessment covered Miner Street from River Road to Graceland. State took 2 days to complete assessment with preliminary findings yet to be provided from State. Any changes to the crosswalk will be funded by Des Plaines. Hoping there will be more information once findings are made known.
- Lee and Forest: Stop light is coming. Lanes will be added and the switch back is going to be straightened out. Phase 2 was submitted for approval and right away procedures are under way from businesses. Project to start late 2017 with the bulk of construction in 2018.
 - What about the vacant bank building? No information.
 - Auto Deals Insurance is constructing a house like building for their business on Lee.

- Crosswalk at Wolf and Hoffman: This crosswalk will connect to the Villas. There will be a solar activated flashing beacon at the Crosswalk. Completion by end of 2016. This location qualified for Grant money with enough Grant money left to put in another light at a crosswalk by Lake Opeka.
- S-Curve Pedestrian/Bike Walkway: Our favorite subject! This is expensive -- \$6-8million. City feels confident that we can get a Grant for a part of the expense, needed for the Grant is a study and budget plan, with a figure provided to the State.
 - 1st step: Completed. Met in May all those needed to be involved with this project (City, Engineer, Railroad, etc.)
 - 2nd step: Consulting Company hired to do a study -- completed in July. Consulting company will present their report in September to the Engineering Department. There will be 4 choices.

BUDGET:

Congress passed a stop gap for 6 months, long enough to get through the elections, for pass through funds. As far as Des Plaines Budget, we are stable. Dorothy, our finance director, is staying conservative and planning to retire approximately \$3Million in debt this year. She also has a disaster plan in place and with little to no help from Casino money.

Budget Meetings will be starting in September and going through October.

- Question: Does the city put in an 'X' amount of dollars into the budget for consultants? It is all sectioned out and not sure the budget gets to that level. Public Works will budget other departments only budget if they know of an upcoming project requiring a study.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Water Sewer fund in the red. Increases received from Chicago for water that were absorbed by Des Plaines with rate hikes not passed along to residents. This issue to be addressed on Monday with the Auditor advising us on how to pay this down then eventually.

- How much is to come back to the residents? The discussion is if the City should use the money being saved to pay down the debt or giveback in savings to the residents. City does want to pass along the savings from the new water pipe to the residents, except it would be more beneficial to the city to lower the debt first then pass along savings to households.

There is money in the budget to look at the downtown area. There is the possibility for a TIF to make a change to downtown.

- Question: Can TIFs be renewed? Yes, or new ones put in place in same area

Considerations for the money: Where would you (those at the meeting) want the money used?

1. Taking out the parking garage behind City Hall and re-build it into a 3 – 4 level garage that can be used for Police Vehicles, Officers parking and City Hall Visitor Parking and then some. Current garage used by City Hall is too small and in need of repair. Would also help with the current parking situation in downtown area.
2. Metropolitan Square Circle (center, brick area) expand this location, which is owned by Des Plaines to make it attached to businesses.
3. Des Plaines Theatre.

Consensus: #1 – Parking Garage – most needed in downtown area.

CITYWIDE:

- Flags: This is to be discussed Monday to have City Council approval. City surveying other cities on what they do. Legal Department provided a comment: Flags that are allowed to be flown over Public Buildings are United States Flag, State of Illinois, Military, local Police and Fire Departments.
- What are the Sticks that are at corners on Thacker? When the streets were re-surfaced, the best practice was to extend the pedestrian crosswalk. Safety Posts were put in to make drivers aware of this extension and it helps plow trucks in winter to follow the curbs.
- Candy Cane Lane is celebrating 25 years. Starts Thanksgiving weekend.
- Is the city doing anything or what are they doing to bring in small businesses? CED is consistently contacting people and businesses to come to Des Plaines.
- Who is responsible to replace stop signs? Depends on location of sign. Oakwood and Westgate the stop sign disappeared and has never been replaced. Denise will check.
- Maple trees are turning yellow and leaves are falling. Do the leaves have black spots? Yes. Per the Arborist, this is a mold which affects maples when there is a wetter than usual season. Nothing to do with the tree itself.
- Citizens Fire Academy is starting September 7 through October 26. Contact the Fire Department to sign up or more information.

- Fire Department Open House is September 24, Station #63 130 E. Thacker. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- New Fire Engine ordered to replace the reserve engine. Fire engine budget was carried over from last year. Will be ordering 1 ambulance for 2016 and 1 ambulance for 2017. Currently have 2 new ambulances and both are in service.
- Rain Barrels available – free to residents, just fill out form and return to City of Des Plaines-Public Works. For more information call 847.391.5464.
- Popcorn Store, Leela Theatre, Caputos: Closed.
- Fresh Market to move in next to the Dollar Store on Oakton.
- Butera (owned by Piggly Wiggly) to be moving into the old Dominick's location.
- Des Plaines Theatre: no news

NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2016

Prairie Lakes – 7:00 p.m.

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