



## **3<sup>RD</sup> WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD**

**September 13, 2017**

### **AGENDA:**

- Des Plaines Catch Up

### **WELCOME:**

Budget Meetings will be taking place in October and November and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, so we will not be having a regular Ward meeting until December. If you are interested in the City's budget, come by City Hall the evenings of October 11 and November 8. November is the last budget meeting and the most interesting.

### **COUNCIL AGENDA:**

There are a number of items on Council agendas that could impact our City's finances.

- Vehicle stickers
- Red light camera
- New water source
- Household sewer lateral lines

### **VEHICLE STICKERS:**

Vehicle Stickers brings in approximately \$2M in revenue, and is administratively time consuming. From time to time the Council considers doing away with Vehicle Stickers. We take away vehicle stickers, City needs to replace that revenue and are we able to earmark \$2M for streets from another source? Not to mention the revenue created by tickets written for expired stickers.

### **Points for Discussion:**

- Take it from the General Fund – but where do you get money for the General Fund?
- 2 Year Vehicle Sticker? Possibly proposed a break in the cost for 2 year. Administrative duties every other year.
- What about year round stickers? Similar to the way the State runs license plates; each month a certain amount would renew the sticker. Lower volume of stickers being given each month, administration would be every month instead of once a year.
- Do we want to do away with the vehicle stickers? Would taking away the vehicle stickers cause taxes to go up? City has not raised Tax Levy the last 6 times and expenses continue to go up. Would prefer our property taxes stay as is and not increase stress on citizens.
- Rivers Casino keeps giving, but is limited because if City of Chicago gets a casino, it will effect Rivers and the Contract with the Gaming Board will change.

### **RED LIGHT CAMERAS:**

Des Plaines has 1 Red Light Camera at Golf and Rand. Red Light at this location has been in place for 2 years. This will be coming up on the Council's Agenda Monday.

Three accident-prone locations originally picked for the Camera within Des Plaines: Elmhurst and Oakton; Touhy and Mt Prospect Road; and Golf and Rand.

- Why Golf and Rand? Golf and Rand is the only one of the three locations that is in Des Plaines. The other 2 locations Des Plaines shares the location with another city.

Background of Red Light Cameras: Enforcement Process with 2 sensors in pavement which triggers to be alerted a car is in the intersection and 1 sensor beyond the Red Light that takes the picture.

Violations are uploaded to a Vendor that runs the Red Light Camera. Vendor reviews and throws out those that aren't violations. Rest are sent to Police Department where a Police Officer reviews each violation using the criteria as if he was at the location. Then file is sent back to Vendor and a paper ticket is sent to the driver. Violator has options; they can pay the ticket by mail or go to the police station and view the video. After viewing the video, violator can then pay the fine or contest it with an Administrator Hearing Officer.

### **NEW WATER SOURCE:**

Most water coming into Des Plaines is coming through Evanston...Northwest Water Commission. Des Plaines is still getting some water from Chicago. (NW Water Commission cannot exceed a certain amount of water received by the Des Plaines.) With these savings from using Evanston Water, water/sewer fund is getting back into the black

May 2016 completed construction of the alternate water source, Des Plaines is seeing an annual savings up to \$3M. Not considering the reductions of the need for a Water Main System, overtime cost of Public Works repairing broken water mains, not to mention, the cost of water loss. City is losing money to aging water meters. City Council asked for options to reduce the cost from Dorothy: She gave 4 options; none of which the Council chose. The City is using the savings to bring down debt to a positive balance (approximately 5 years.)

### **HOUSEHOLD SEWER LATERAL LINE:**

The sewer lateral sanitary line is the pipe that comes from your house/residence to the city sewer. Public Works Engineer at the Council Meeting stated (Aldermen agreed) that the City is not responsible for the sewer line from resident's house to the city. This is the resident's property and responsibility. City is old and pipes, back when many houses were built, are made from clay...now these pipes are collapsing. The cost is very high to repair and the City does offer a rebate up to \$2,000.

- Does the public know about the rebate? Not sure, although the resident can go on the City Website to check.
- Why don't cities reimburse? Des Plaines did a survey of surrounding towns, and Des Plaines is one of the few towns that provides a rebate. Those lateral pipes are not covered in the City Budget and not part of the City's capital.

### **CHICKENS:**

This is an expensive hobby and the coops are a specific "boutique style" coop and pedigree chickens and no roosters. These residents are wanting a sustainable/organic lifestyle and to teach their children responsibility and a healthier lifestyle. And have fresh eggs. There is a slight uptick of salmonella because more people have backyard hens, but there needs to be good hygiene practiced.

More information on the raising of hens can be found in the Council Packet on the City web site. Reminder that this is a test program using a few families.

### **CITYWIDE:**

- City Health Insurance: Reducing from the "Cadillac" premium of PPO 1 to PPO 2 with a higher deductible will save the City money. Elected officials get the same benefits as City employees.
- When will City be out of debt? Projection is 8 – 10 years. We are not in the red. With the State Budget questionable, Des Plaines has set aside an Emergency Fund from the Casino revenue.
- Bike Path – S Curve: All this year was going to be analysis. The location has been surveyed and a blue print will be provided (probably) next year.
- Cumberland Station: Metra says that Des Plaines can fix up the Cumberland Station (at City's expense.)
- Union Pacific Tracks: The railroad crossing at Thacker and Algonquin are bad again.
- Meyer Cement: Meyer is using the location for material storage.
- Thacker from Wolf Road to Elmhurst is scheduled for replacing next year. County will be doing the road work.
- New Class of Citizens Fire Academy started this evening (September 13.)

### **NEXT MEETING**

December 13, 2017

Prairie Lakes – 7:00 p.m.

October and November Meetings will be taken up with Budget Meetings.  
All are invited to attend City Hall October 18 and November 8

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