

CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
August 5, 2013 - 12:00 p.m. City Hall - Publication version

Attendance

Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Council present: Diana Willits, Charlene Butz, David Jenison, Betty Glover, Dave Burgess, City Staff present: City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh, Police Chief Dennis McDaniel, Public Works Director Jason VanAusdall, Fire Chief Christopher Cross.

Ambulance Fees

Fire Chief Christopher Cross was on hand to discuss ambulance rate increases. The Fire Department is currently charging below the Metropolitan average and the City needs to be competitive with its fees. Ambulance costs including fuel, supplies, etc. are becoming more expensive, but the revenue is staying flat. City Council thinks the City should raise the rate to the Metropolitan average to offset costs, but they don't want to charge the highest rate. Chief Cross and CA Fiegenschuh will prepare an ordinance for consideration at either the Aug 19th or Sep 3rd Council meeting.

Street Project- Referendum Capital Improvement Levy

The Council discussed the option of moving forward with a referendum to ask the voters to institute a \$.675 capital improvement levy that would be used solely for street repairs and improvements. The levy would be voted on during the Nov municipal elections. CA Fiegenschuh discussed the pros and cons of the levy and reminded the council they have the authority to issue GO bonds for essential corporate purposes (streets) without a referendum. The street repair program being discussed would be approximately \$2.5 million over 15 years and would cost the average home owner \$55 annually in 2013 dollars. The Council weighed the pros and cons and ultimately asked the City Administrator to begin preparing the necessary paper work move forward with the bonds this winter as an essential corporate purpose with no referendum.

Discussion of Collection of Cost Language for Nuisance Abatement Ordinance through Municipal Collections of America

City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh wants to move forward with a contract for collection costs for fire/ambulance and code enforcement fees. It's less expensive for the City when dealing with a collection agency and with a limited staff, it makes everything more efficient. Mayor Sullivan asked about other cities working with this collection company (Municipal Collections). Police Chief Dennis McDaniel said they work with a lot of midsize cities and they are very good at what they do and have been great to work with via the ATE program. The Council asked the City Administrator to prepare an ordinance for future consideration.

Power Lines

There is a program through MidAmerican Energy to bury power lines. To pay for the program, the Council would set a tariff through MidAmerican which would assess the costs to all rate payers in the Windsor Heights corporate limits. MidAmerican Energy said it would cost approximately \$800k-1 Million to bury utilities. Council Members would like to find out more information regarding detailed costs, but it's not a high priority at this time.

Planning & Zoning Commission Opening

Stu Turner has resigned from Planning and Zoning and there is an open spot to be filled. City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh said two applications have been submitted, and he would like Planning and Zoning to discuss the applicants and make the recommendation for consideration at the first meeting in September. The Council concurred.

Sewer Replacement Program

City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh and Council Member Glover previously met with the Neighborhood Finance Corporation to discuss the residential sewer line replacement program. Everyone needs to remind citizens there are dollars out there to replace their sewers. Council Member Willits asked if the City is having meetings to discuss these programs. City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh said not at this time, but he will talk about these programs at his monthly coffee meetings.

Parking Issues

Public Works Director Jason VanAusdall discussed why he wants no parking signs on Del Matro Court. He has received several complaints and concerns from the garbage company not being able to access garbage cans when the circle is full of cars. He said it's difficult for fire and ambulance vehicles to access those houses if they receive a call. The Council doesn't want the signs to be up at this time, and they would like Jason to talk with the home owners first to see what they think about the parking issue.