

## **Weekly Update for the week of January 13, 2014**

### **Common Council Meeting – Notable Items**

#### Water Meter Replacement

Rick Lien, Water Superintendent, will provide information to the Council regarding upcoming water meter replacements. The Water Utility is gearing up for our water meter replacement program which is set to begin later this month. Affected residents will receive a letter notifying them of the need to replace their water meter and be provided with instructions on how to set an appointment for their meter replacement.

#### R-1 Salary Resolution Amendment No. 1 to 2014

This amendment includes corrections to the 2014 Salary Resolution as well as wage changes for two positions. Both positions, the Management Analyst and the CDA Support Research Specialist, will be taking on additional responsibilities that merit the wage changes. Support for the Management Analyst position wage change was provided in the materials for the meeting. CDA Director, Pat Cannon will be available to answer any questions regarding the CDA Support Research Specialist position. The city manager is requesting adoption by the Common Council.

#### R-2 Dam Grant Resolution

This resolution would authorize the City's participation in the DNR's Municipal Dam Grant program to help fund work on the dam that will be required as part of the Downtown East Gateway project. The resolution is required as part of the application process. Staff requests adoption by the Common Council.

#### C-3 Whitewater Aquatic Center Funding Request

Due to increases in the cost of operations and maintenance of the Whitewater Aquatic Center, the Whitewater Aquatic Center Inc. Board of Directors has asked for a 4% increase in the City's funding contribution. The same request is also being made of the Whitewater Unified School District. The City's minimum annual contribution has remained \$75,000 since the signing of the original agreement in 2006. The additional \$3,000 would be allocated from Contingencies. Staff would recommend approval of this item.

#### C-4 WPPA MOU Approval

Since the summer of 2013, the Whitewater Police Department has been experimenting with a 10-hour shift schedule. The 10-hour shift schedule is seen by many police departments as beneficial because transitioning from the traditional 8-hour schedule to the 10-hour model can significantly reduce overtime. The 10-hour model is also seen as beneficial to many employees because most receive an extra day off on weekends as a result of the change. Both the Whitewater Police Department and the detectives themselves have seen the change as beneficial and would like to continue with the practice. The agreement included in the materials for the meeting would allow for the detectives to continue working under the 10-hour shift schedule even if the officers' collective bargaining unit does not agree to adopt the practice department-wide. The 10-hour shift schedule has not been discussed or planned for discussion in any other department. Staff would recommend approval of the agreement as presented.

#### C-5 Downtown East Gateway Project Report

Staff is not seeking any action on the part of the Common Council for this item. This is simply a report on the progress of the project. Information on the project timeline was presented to business and property owners at a public information meeting held on January 16. An update on that meeting is available later in this weekly update.

#### C-6 Nextel West Corporation Lease Termination Agreement

Telecommunications firms often lease space on municipal water towers for their antennae and other equipment. Nextel West Corporation (Nextel) is one such business. Nextel recently replaced outdated equipment on one of Whitewater's municipal water towers and vacated a small storage facility at the

base of the tower. The small storage building will now be used by the water utility for storage. Staff would recommend approval of this agreement.

#### C-7 BIOGAS Performance Contracting Presentation

At the last Common Council meeting, staff presented information on a potential energy savings project at the wastewater treatment facility. This project would involve working with a performance contracting firm (Trane) and an engineering firm (Black & Veatch) to design and build improvements that would enable the use of methane gas for more efficient power generation. These improvements could dramatically reduce energy costs at the facility. The next step would be to allow Trane to conduct an in-depth feasibility study for the project. Due to the lack of a draft agreement in time for delivery with the packet materials for this meeting, staff will not seek approval of an agreement at this meeting. However, we have an opportunity to hear from representatives from Train and Black & Veatch on Tuesday.

#### C-9 Donation of Unused Computer Equipment

The hardware listed with this item will be donated to the Makerspace. This equipment has been in storage awaiting disposal. Staff would recommend approval of the request to release these items to the Makerspace.

### **General Administration**

#### League of Women Voters Meeting

The League of Women Voters hosted a discussion on the future of Trippe and Cravath Lakes. Whitewater's Dan Sable gave a presentation and was followed by Parks & Recreation Director, Matt Amundson who provided additional information on the City's efforts to preserve and improve the health and accessibility of the lakes. Thank you to the League of Women Voters for hosting this event and to Matt and Dan for their participation.

#### Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet

Business owners braved the cold and snow Thursday night to attend the Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet. Stephanie Klett, Wisconsin's Department of Tourism Secretary, attended the event and was the featured speaker. This year's list of awards and recipients included:

- Community Recognition Award - Robin's Nest - 40 year business anniversary
- President's Award - Danielle Frawley, Fort Community Credit Union
- Directors Award - Julie Barnes, CSI Media
- Special Project Award - Jon Laundrie, Culver's
- Outstanding Business Leader - Ron Jongetjes, John's Disposal
- Good Neighbor Award - Jon Kachel, Commercial Bank
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Allen Marshall, Whitewater Farmers Market

Congratulations to all award recipients!

#### Fire Department Task Force Meeting

The Fire/EMS Task Force met on Thursday evening to discuss goals and objectives for the future of the department including fire, tech rescue, and emergency medical service. All members of the Task Force were in attendance for the meeting as well as several members of the Fire Department. Materials from the meeting can be accessed from the city website. Draft minutes will be posted next week.

#### Downtown East Gateway Project

The second public information meeting for the Downtown East Gateway project was held on 1/16/14 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The majority of the event was an open house format with project engineer Mark Fisher making one 30 minute presentation. Approximately twenty people were in attendance. The majority of questions from attendees came during the open house. Concerns expressed by attendees included the loss of parking on Main Street, loss of business access points within the corridor, the project

timeline, and the appraised value of the properties to be purchased for right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. All comments and concerns were documented by project engineers to be evaluated and considered in final planning for the project.

#### Make A Difference Day Project Round-Up

City staff is in the process of compiling a list of project ideas for this year's Make a Difference Day. The university is asking for ideas on projects that could involve up to forty volunteers for a four hour block of time. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 26.

### **Parks & Recreation**

#### Whitewater Creek Stream Bank

Public Information meeting will be held on either February 19 or 20, will confirm with Strand Associates.

#### James Street Detention Basin

Staff will hold a public information meeting on either February 19 or 20 in conjunction with the Whitewater Creek Stream Bank project.

#### Trane Energy Efficiency Improvements

Trane had a technician at our municipal building on Wednesday, January 15, to review the controls system. Staff anticipates expediting the new controls system ahead of the other upgrades as the old control system completely went down the day before.

#### Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan/Park & Open Space Plan

Individual park plans were reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board on the January 14. The Board made it through just a portion of the parks and will be attempting to finish this work in February.

#### Treyton's Field of Dreams

Mike Kilar and Matt Amundson met with Frawley Oil this week as well as Russell Walton, Jim Brock, and Mason Belzer to review plans for retaining wall, spectator area, and concourse.

### **Public Works Department**

#### Winter Weather Response

Public Works employees have been very busy with maintaining city infrastructure as we continue to experience freezing temperatures and snowfall. Many employees have been called upon to clear roadways or respond to alarms around the clock. We appreciate their dedication and outstanding performance. In anticipation of the return of UWW students and faculty, piles of snow are being removed from downtown lots and permitted parking areas.

#### Damaged Mailboxes

Occasionally, mailboxes can be damaged by the blade of a plow truck or the force of the plowed snow being pushed onto the curb. If your mailbox is damaged by a plow truck, please contact the Streets/Parks/Forestry Superintendent, Chuck Nass.

#### Christmas Tree Collection Continues

Christmas Tree collection will continue this week. Following this week, residents can call to request their tree be collected during regularly scheduled brush pick-up service on Tuesday's.

### **Media Services**

#### New Community Video

The Media Services Department recently completed a brief video on the Whitewater Cable TV. Media Services will soon be completing similar videos providing information on other municipal services as well. The video can be accessed at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/84230077>

## **Irving L. Young Memorial Library**

### Upcoming Library Events

Maker Monday is on the January 20 from 4:30 -5:30 pm.

Friday, January 24 there will be a gaming afternoon activity.