ICON Membership Meeting

2/26/18, 6:30pm

First Church of the Brethren

Present: Bill Baskett, Carol Kneedler, Arlene Flury, Dee Nelson, Kerry Noonan-Lewis, Paul O’Shea, Polly Poskin, Darrell Riffy, Sharon Riffey, Jill Steiner, Marty Vandiver, Suzie Weissberg, Jess Weitzel

Also present: Tom Raymond, Alicia Colbert, Rianne Hawkins, Lynn McMenamin

1. Meeting convened at 6:35pm
2. Approval of the January 2018 minutes
   1. Motion: Dee Nelson
   2. Second: Arlene Flury
   3. Ayes have it
3. Treasurer’s Report
   1. Beginning: $8,239.55
   2. Receipts: $670.00
   3. Expenses: $602.63
   4. Ending: $8,306.92
   5. 2018 membership: 34 total
      1. Individuals: 27
      2. Organizations: 2
      3. Businesses: 1
      4. Lifetime: 4
4. City Council Committee report: Sharon Riffey
   1. City budget passed last week (2/20/18)
   2. 2.0% telecommunications tax increase, 0.25% sales tax increase passed
   3. 4.0% natural gas tax (on the actual amount used) to be discussed tomorrow at COTW (2/27/18)
      1. Mayor’s argument: need to diversify the City’s revenue streams; will be pledged towards pensions this year, next year it will be split between pensions and equipment purchases; levels the playing field with Ameren because CWLP pays the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes but Ameren does not currently pay any fees to the City
      2. McMenamin’s reply: additional reasons to support the tax – a way for the hospitals and the State to help pay more of their fair share; that being said, McMenamin feels that there continues to be a spending problem in additional to a lack of revenue problem (total number of employees being paid over $75,000 is growing; generous pensions and benefits packages; specifically highlighted the increase in salaries across the board)
         1. Intends to vote no on this tax
      3. Vote
         1. Motion to support the Natural Gas tax: Sharon Riffey
         2. Second: Darrell Riffey
         3. Discussion
            1. Kurt: Use of the resources is written into the ordinance?

Year one: pensions

Thereafter: ½ pensions, ½ equipment (skewing vehicular)

Up to City Council to decide how to spend the equipment purchasing money

McMenamin: adding more money into the system (like adding dollars for equipment purchases), you weaken the position of the City at the

* + - * 1. The natural gas tax would be a permanent tax increase.
      1. Ayes have it
  1. Discussing EDC
     1. DiCenso: the City needs a paradigm change
        1. Makeup of board is functionally the same as Q5
        2. Lack of diversity: of 30 board members, only 3 are women and only 1 is a person of color
        3. Focus of EDC is tech and business attraction, but is there a connection to other assets within the City?
     2. Michael Higgins: importance of disposable income to the local economy cannot be overstated
     3. Mayor: report didn’t mention some other significant silos, most importantly the large number of taxing bodies (to be discussed in Council in November)
     4. McMenamin: need a larger, regional approach to economic development (global economy)
     5. Darrell Riffey: If tech is important, why was Innovate Springfield not funded through the Council several weeks ago?
        1. DiCenso: That ordinance is still in committee, but many are still supportive of funding it over any other initiative, such as the Chamber, Q5, or the EDC
     6. Carol Kneedler: what is the long-range plan for dealing with the union contracts and the formation of the EDC?
        1. Mayor: the City has already done some of the union negotiations, but the current City Attorney is very much a hardliner in those discussions and will continue to advocate for City interests; the EDC should also go towards a larger regional approach like the Greater Peoria EDC (a five county entity)
     7. CityWorks – Director Mahoney
        1. A centralized source of all information across City departments
        2. Already used in the sewer department, expanded into CWLP Water Division, Building & Zoning
        3. McMenamin: impact on the Housing Division and violations – does it anticipate having any interface with landlords?
           1. In Peoria, 1,500/5,000 of landlords have signed up within one month to receive electronic notifications regarding housing violations
           2. Mahoney: the key to that system is the City having a registration requirements

McMenamin: Peoria has a landlord registry, charges $150/year/property, but landlords are eligible for a $75 rebate on those fees if they attend a workshop

1. Presentation
   1. Director Mahoney, Office of Public Works: Imapct of the FY19 budget on Public Works operations
      1. 5.5% reduction in operating budget for this fiscal year
      2. Biggest area hit: Streets division
         1. Need another Solid Waste Crew (fly dumping pickup, mowing, etc.), several Tree Trimming Crews
      3. Delays of service will most likely impact
         1. Tree trimming, branch and leaf pickup will remain
2. Problem Properties Committee report: Bill Baskett
   1. 11th meeting held 2/21/18
   2. Tracking 8 properties for legal demolition
   3. 4 properties taken off tracking list due to issues being abated or dismissed
   4. 9 properties pending legal action
   5. 4 properties designated as “Endless Building Permits”
   6. 4 new properties identified for tracking
   7. next meeting will be 3/22/18
3. Next litter pickup (reschedule): Saturday, March 17th
   1. Washington St. & Chatham Rd. intersection
   2. 7:30am for coffee and donuts at Dunkin Donuts
   3. 8:00am pickup begins
4. Community Announcements
   1. Ward 6 clean up with Alderwoman DiCenso on Saturday, March 10th
5. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm