

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES – SPECIAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

The Common Council of the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, met in Special session at 7:00 p.m., November 19, 2019 in the Council Chambers of Neenah City Hall.

Mayor Kaufert in the chair.

Present: Alderpersons Boyette, Bates, Lang, Lendrum, Erickson, Steele, Kunz & Stevenson, Director of Finance Easker, Director of Community Development & Assessment Haese, Director of Public Works Kaiser, City Attorney Godlewski and City Clerk Sturn. Alderperson Spellman was excused.

Also Present: Assistant Comptroller Kahl, Police Chief Olson, Police Captain Bernice, Fire Chief Kloehn, Director of Parks & Recreation Kading, Superintendent of Recreation Kluge, Recreation Supervisor Schott, Director of Library Services Raab, Director of Neenah Water Utility Mach, Director of Human Resources & Safety Kehl, Director of Information Systems Wenninger, Park & Rec Commissioners Peter Kelly & Judy Zaretzke, Ned Hughes, Robert & Betty Gehr, Edwin Cesas, Joyce Argall, Scott Springmier, Richard Mosbacher, Dan & Bette McIntosh, Mary Ellen Wroblewski, Alexander Vysotski, Susan Derhaag, Ken Zwick, James & Peg Dickson, David Popp, Cari Ullrich and Duke Behnke of the Post Crescent.

Mayor Kaufert called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Clerk Sturn called a voice roll call as the Mayor/Alderpersons recorded their attendance in the RollCall-Pro System followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing on the Proposed 2020 Operating and Capital Improvements Program Budgets

- I. Mayor Kaufert opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2020 Operating Budget and 2020 Capital Improvements Program Budget at 7:10 pm.
 - A. Scott Springmier, 270 Lakeshore Avenue, supported the Lakeshore Avenue project but opposed the off-street trail. He feels there are no safety issues and the off-street trail will alter the ambiance of that area. In addition, it will cost the taxpayers additional dollars including ongoing maintenance.
 - B. Jim Dickson, 1338 Whittier Drive, spoke in opposition to sidewalks on Whittier Drive. He feels the City needs to come up with a plan. There are currently 8 streets in his neighborhood with no sidewalks, 3 streets with sidewalk on one side of the street and 3 streets with sidewalks on both sides. Sidewalks don't eliminate pedestrians crossing the street. He feels we are living in the past on sidewalks. He asked the Council to take more consideration before putting sidewalks on Whittier Drive.
 - C. Susan Derhaag, 260 Lakeshore Avenue, opposed the trail on Lakeshore Avenue. She quoted a Joni Mitchell song, "They took all the trees and put them in a tree museum, they charged all the people a dollar and a half to see them, don't it always seems to go that you don't know what you've got

until it's gone, they paved paradise and put up a parking lot", that just speaks to her. She expressed concern over killing trees not only by cutting them down but also those that will be compromised by the effects of the impervious surface. She indicated they currently have issues with erosion and stressed the importance of maintaining this for all citizens.

- D. Joyce Argall, 1350 Whittier Drive, submitted a petition on behalf of Steve Terrien, 342 Kraft Street, who was taken ill and unable to attend the meeting. She worked with him collecting signatures on the petition in opposition to sidewalks on Whittier Drive. Everyone but one resident signed the petition. They feel the street is safe without sidewalks. One comment that both of them heard was lack of communication. Residents were not aware of this was being considered. They would like to see better communication to keep owners aware of projects of this magnitude. She submitted the petition to the Clerk.
- E. Cari Ullrich, 143 N. Park Avenue, indicated they have lived there for almost two decades and she feels safe walking down Lakeshore Avenue. The speed limit is 15 miles per hour and most vehicles go that speed. She shared a picture of middle school children enjoying a walk down Lakeshore Avenue. She indicated this must mean that the school administrators feel it is safe as well. She advised that the most important part of the root systems of trees is the feeder roots. These feeder roots are sensitive being compacted. They go 4-7' beyond the tree and would be compromised. Beauty is a stake here. Removing the grass and adding an impervious surface would increase erosion risks. Emerald ash borers add to the tree loss.
- F. Dave Popp, 2324 Fiesta Court, supported a changing room / restrooms at Fresh Air Beach. He expressed concern that this keeps getting removed from the budget. He would also like to see the parking lot repaired. Secondly, he indicated Southview Park area has sidewalks that stop and start again. If residents on Whittier don't want sidewalks he would take them in his neighborhood.
- G. Robert Gehr, 1305 Whittier Drive, spoke on behalf of himself and his wife Betty. He asked where the request came from for sidewalks on Whittier Drive. He asked for more detail as to why this money should be spent. He expressed concern that his daughter bought a house and was forced to put in sidewalks only to find those sidewalks are not being used. He would prefer traffic and safety for children be addressed near Coolidge School.
- H. Mary Ellen Wroblewski, 114 Lakeshore Drive, distributed a picture of the lakeshore containing a saying, "In the end our society will be defined not only by what we create but by what we refuse to destroy". The trees in the picture have been there for hundreds of years. She is opposed to destroying the trees and ambiance along Lakeshore Drive. She asked the Council to preserve the past and save this area as a legacy to our children.
- I. Ken Zwick, 730 Congress Place, spoke in support of an off-street trail along Lakeshore Drive. When he first saw Kimberly Point he felt it was an incredible place. There are not a lot of places in the Fox Cities where you get an unobstructed view of the lake. There is something for every season.

That is why they moved to Neenah and they have been here for 20 years. Neenah has made a lot of improvements over those 20 years. One thing that has not been changed is the access to Kimberly Point or Lakeshore Avenue. He was excited when he saw the plans to put in a path along the lake to give everyone access to get right up on the lake. He was impressed with the work the city planner put into this design. He was disappointed to see that taken out of the budget. Maybe there have been no accidents but it is always on your mind having to be right next to the cars as you walk along that road. He feels the trail will also enhance the beauty of the lakeshore. The design to save the trees is a great addition to this plan. He encourage the Council to put the \$70,000 back in the budget for an off-street trail along Lakeshore Drive.

- J. Edwin Cesas, 469 Lowell Place, spoke in opposition to sidewalk on Whittier Drive. This sidewalk would run right alongside his house. He would support a bike lane to suit bikers. Sidewalks are not justified.
- K. Dan McIntosh, 234 Lakeshore Avenue, supported an on-street versus off-street trail along Lakeshore Avenue. In 2011 when the reconstruction on Lakeshore Avenue was first debated, area neighbors initiated a website called, "Citizens to Preserve the Neenah Lakeshore". Over 500 comments were posted to this website in support of an on-street as opposed to an off-street trail. These comments were from not only Neenah but the Fox Valley and beyond. In addition, some 800 citizens signed a petition in favor of an on-street trail. He previously provided the Council with copies of these comments / petitions. Winnebago County and the DNR both have regulations restricting new installation of impervious surfaces within 300' of water. These impervious surfaces, restrict precipitation from infiltrating into the ground. We can all agree that the addition of more impervious surface along the water is ill-advised and not a good idea. He would like to see the natural look be preserved. Historically, the absence of any police reports confirm that Lakeshore Avenue is safe without a marked pedestrian lane. The lowered speed limit makes it much safer. He urged the Council to vote in favor of an on-street trail.
- L. Ned Hughes, 1140 Manor Drive #104, supported the Jewelers Park Drive trail. As an organizer of the St. Joe's 5K Run/Walk they had to move their course down Jewelers Park Drive this year. There is no trail / sidewalk from W. Cecil Street to Harrison Street. A trail would connect the Harrison Street trail on the south end to the Bridgewood Trail on the north end.
- M. There being no further appearance, Mayor Kaufert closed the public hearing at 7:53 p.m.

Council Consideration of 2020 Operating and Capital Improvements Budgets

- I. Mayor Kaufert thanked everyone for joining in as we adopt the 2020 Budget. He addressed a couple of items from the public hearing that may not get addressed in the course of the budget process. A few years ago, the Council created a sidewalk criteria policy. That policy has a ranking system for sidewalks. We also have a 5 year plan which is updated each year and contains

street & sidewalk projects and capital expenditures. This has been in the 5 year plan. He understands that most citizens don't sit and read the 5 year plan. He plans to follow through on some suggestions to utilize the quarterly newsletter to let residents know when these street / sidewalk projects are coming up. He advised Mr. Popp that he and Dir. Kading reached out to the Town of Neenah and Winnebago County to ask if they would be interested in participating in the repairs / upgrades at Fresh Air Park. It is a City owned property but a lot of Town and County residents use that park. Unfortunately this year, because of priorities, it did not make the cut and it was removed. He has commitments from both the Town and the County to sit down and discuss how they can assist with this. Hopefully we can place that in the budget next year. He took five minutes to talk about this year's budget. The Council has worked hard on this budget. More than ever before, we are faced with challenges due to strict levy limits imposed by the State and no increase in shared revenue aid. The Council has 16+ hours in workshops plus additional hours to study the 359 page document. They have developed a list of items they wish to remove / add to the budget. Those items will be hammered out tonight. He does not like to cut back, he likes to invest in the future. He believes that future, in Neenah, is very, very bright. We have met all the goals set by the State. The State imposed allowable levy increase is tied to our new net construction increase which was \$26.3 million dollars this year. It equates to 1.19%. That left us with approximately \$600,000 we could increase our \$25 million dollar operating budget by. Shared revenues continue to decline. This year that number is about 8%. Shared revenues and expenditure restraints were estimated to be \$2,090,000 this year. A reduction of almost \$1 million dollars. With these reductions, it is becoming more difficult to sustain services. The budget presented tonight has about a \$1.3% increase in spending. The City continues to be concerned over how much we borrow. Regarding the operating budget, our department heads identified needs of just over \$26.2 million dollars for 2020. He has requested a reduction from their request of almost \$520,000 leaving a final expenditure budget of just over \$25.7 million dollars. That is supported by a tax levy of just less than \$14 million dollars including debt service and TIF. The final proposed levy is just over \$19.1 million, an increase of just over \$207,000 or 1.1%. Mayor Kaufert talked about the mill rate and how that was affected by the revaluation this year. To help fund projects, he is proposing to borrow \$9.97 million dollars which is just under the \$10 million dollar qualifying limits. The use of reserves help to keep us under that limit yet still leave a healthy reserve balance. He outlined some of the specifics in the budget indicating this document will provide the high quality level of services that this community is used to. He thanked the City Council for their time and effort on this budget. He also thanked Finance Director Easker and his staff for their work on this budget. He thanked staff & Department Heads for their hard work in this process.

- II. **MS Stevenson/Erickson to accept and place on file the petition in opposition to sidewalks on Whittier Drive and the Lakeshore Drive picture submitted**

during the public hearing for consideration of the 2020 budget. There being no objections the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

III. MS Stevenson/Kunz to adopt Resolution No. 2019-23 authorizing Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue budget to exceed the local levy limits pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602(3)(h) and permitting the carry-forward of 2019 unused levy limit to the 2020 Operating Budget pursuant to Wis. Stats. §66.0302(3)(f).

- A. Dir. Easker explained that as part of the operating budget, the State of Wisconsin provides very strict levy limits that are a product of the amount of growth, new construction. The State also understands that communities that cooperate with each other in terms of services such as police and fire, specifically fire, need to have some assurance that the levy limit law will not prevent them from entering into these types of agreements. Consequently, there is a law that allows us to exempt up to an amount of the levy being increased for the fire rescue services being charged by the joint department. This resolution is exempting \$100,000 from the levy limit as allowed by law.
- B. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**

IV. MS Stevenson/Bates to adopt Resolution No. 2019-24 adopting the 2020 Operating Budget and 2020 Capital Improvements Program Budget for the City of Neenah as submitted by the Mayor.

- A. Dir. Easker recapped the beginning totals to make sure we do not exceed State limits. The budget would levy \$19,102,026. An assessed tax rate of \$8.19.3 cents. The Operating Budget has \$8,960 of unused levy limits and \$2,506 of Expenditure Restraints allowed. The City is \$35,870 under the \$10 million dollar bank qualified limit we use as our benchmark. The City is also prepared to use \$200,000 of General Fund Reserves and \$165,000 from the Benefit Accrual Fund to offset the Operating Budget.
- B. **MS Erickson/Lendrum (p.254) to remove \$65,000 from the CIP budget for sidewalks on Whittier Drive.**
1. Ald. Erickson clarified that the memo sent out late yesterday from Dir. Kaiser indicated that the ranking for Whittier Drive and length of the sidewalks were listed incorrectly. Whittier Drive is now ranked #3 yet it came up first on the list of projects. During the sidewalk discussion a few years ago regarding Forest Manor, we were told it made sense to have sidewalks on one side of the street. This proposal includes sidewalks on both sides. She does not feel that is necessary. For those reason, she would like to remove it from this year's budget.
 2. Ald. Kunz expressed concern over having this discussion on sidewalks again. This has been debated for years. Every time we discuss a sidewalk residents show up indicating they do not want sidewalks in front of their house. The majority have sidewalks in the City. To him it is a community thing. It is what we do. If they don't want sidewalks, there are a lot of towns surrounding the City. His concern is that we ask our elderly and children to walk in the

gutter because we don't want sidewalk. It saddens him that we continue this conversation. Best practice is to have a sidewalk on both sides. Sidewalks are standard for new subdivisions. We have spent hours on discussing sidewalks. He feels we need to move on.

3. Ald. Erickson questioned if the budget has been amended to include his suggestion to include sidewalks on Whittier through Mahler Boulevard.
4. Dir. Kaiser advised the item listed in the budget is consistent with the sidewalk and trails map. That budget number is good for the project from Kraft to Hawthorne. The mapping down to Mahler Boulevard was done during the criteria evaluation and did not play a role in establishing the budget number or the end point to the project as listed in the budget book. His intent is to leave the project as stated in the budget from Hawthorne to Kraft.
5. Ald. Lang asked why S. Park and Plummer are not part of this budget if Whittier, which is now 3rd in priority behind S. Park and Plummer is in the budget. She would like to see consistency on how we prioritize these projects.
6. Dir. Kaiser clarified that his request was for both S. Park & Whittier Drive to be included in the 2020 CIP budget. S. Park is a higher cost project and did not make the cut through the budget evaluation. He further clarified that the Mayor removed it even though it was a higher priority. He expects that future CIP requests will include sidewalk installations in the order they were calculated out in the scoring criteria. If a project gets removed, that project would be requested again in a subsequent year. He clarified for Mayor Kaufert that 2019-2023 five year plan S. Park was requested for 2020 in addition to Whittier Drive.
7. Dir. Easker added that it was in the CIP for 2020 however the 2019-2023 CIP took it out therefore as he was carrying forward the CIP Plan he did not re-request it.
8. Mayor Kaufert added that he was trying to respect the Council's desire to have a sidewalk criteria program. A lot of time was spent on creating that program. He was also trying to make the numbers work in this budget. That is why Whittier was included.
9. Dir. Kaiser clarified for Ald. Erickson that Plummer Court was not requested for 2020 since it ranked 3rd in the initial evaluation. He thinks it is included in 2021.
10. **Motion carried, by a 6-2 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye, Ald. Kunz and Bates voting nay.**

C. **MS Stevenson/Kunz to decrease Library Capital Facilities by \$7,200 to eliminate replacement of the Library humidifier at the request of Director Raab.**

1. Ald. Stevenson added that this would reduce borrowing by \$7,200 and reduce the scope of the project.

2. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- D. **MS Stevenson/Kunz (p.293) to increase the I/S Capital Equipment – Production Storage and Server Upgrade by \$25,000 and decrease I/S Capital Equipment – Smart Cities Initiative by \$20,000.**
 1. Ald. Stevenson added that the net effect would add \$5,000 to the CIP and to the borrowing.
 2. Mayor Kaufert added that there was some miscommunication on his part and it simply puts \$25,000 back in the I/S Capital Equipment – Production Storage & Upgrade and eliminates the \$20,000 for the I/S Capital Equipment – Smart Cities Initiative. While he is okay with reducing the Smart Cities Initiative this year he strongly believes we need to start looking at this initiative particularly cameras for some intersections, etc. to benefit the entire community as a whole.
 3. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- E. **MS Stevenson/Boyette (p.292) to decrease Fire/Rescue Capital Equipment by \$32,610 to replace or refurbish Squad 32.**
 1. Ald. Stevenson added that Chief Kloehn has fine-tuned those numbers allowing this reduction.
 2. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- F. **MS Stevenson/Erickson (p.293) to decrease G.O. Borrowing by \$21,000 from DOLAS Equipment for ICE Voting Machine/Badger Books and increase Capital Equipment Reserves for DOLAS Equipment for ICE Voting Machine/Badger Books by \$21,000.**
 1. Ald. Stevenson added that the Council preciously took action to fund the ICE Voting Machine/Badger Books using Reserves and the budget included borrowed dollars to fund that purchase.
 2. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- G. **MS Stevenson/Bates (p. 252) add \$50,000 to the Street Upgrades – City Initiated using Public Infrastructure reserves to correct a typo and fully fund the project at \$250,000.**
 1. Dir. Easker explained that prior to this action, we are under the \$10 million dollar borrowing cap by \$156,680.
 2. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- H. **MS Stevenson/Bates (p. 294) to reduce the Police Facilities/Police Station budget by \$18,000 and reducing the scope of the project for replacement of the tile floor to from \$49,000 to \$31,000.**
 1. Ald. Stevenson indicated this motion is being made as Chief Olson has provided some much nicer numbers for this purchase. He has provided a quote in the amount of \$30,472.
 2. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**

- I. **MS Stevenson/Bates to reduce the NM Fire Rescue CIP budget by \$2,000 from \$12,000 to \$10,000 for the replacement of the hot water heater.**
 1. Ald. Stevenson added that Chief Kloehn provided an updated number at \$10,000 for this purchase. This will reduce the borrowing by \$2,000.
 2. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- J. Dir. Easker updated the numbers indicating we are now under the \$10 million dollar borrowing cap by \$207,680.
- K. **Ald. Erickson/Boyette to add \$20,000 to remove the Doty Park Tennis Courts and either replace with new athletic courts or remain undeveloped and plant grass until that is developed in 2023.**
 1. Ald. Erickson added that the reason for this is that the tennis courts have fallen into disrepair. Anyone visiting Doty Park see these tennis courts that are not usable. Dir. Kading indicated to her that they currently have two sessions of lessons with 8-10 students. There are lessons offered at the Green Park, Southview, Ivy Williams Tennis Courts and Smith Park in Menasha. Until we get to the point that we decide to do something she does not feel we should maintain courts that are in disrepair.
 2. Ald. Kunz indicated he does not feel this is the best use of these dollars.
 3. Ald. Stevenson concurred with Ald. Kunz. To do a single scope project to the tune of \$20,000 to remove an asset when in two or three years we may be removing and replacing that same asset does not make sense. He favors identifying the scope of the project and funding it completely.
 4. Ald. Steele asked how many people still use the tennis courts even if they are in disrepair. She supports removing them but struggles with spending money to replace them at this time. She asked if there is a need to have more tennis courts.
 5. Dir. Kading responded to Ald. Lendrum indicating he does not feel it is a wise source of resources at this time to do a patch at this time. Putting dollars and cents into the courts would not be wise.
 6. Ald. Erickson clarified that the money we would spend on this would be money we would save in 2023 because the courts would need to be removed at that time.
 7. **Motion failed, by a 3-5 RollCall-Pro System vote, Ald. Erickson, Stevenson and Boyette voting aye, Ald. Bates, Lang, Lendrum, Erickson, Steele and Kunz voting nay.**
- L. **MS Bates/Lang to increase the budget for Street Upgrades – City Initiated by \$70,000 for Lakeshore Avenue to be funded by the use of \$70,000 Public Infrastructure Reserves.**
 1. Ald. Bates indicated she has pictures of how much traffic actually goes down Lake Shore Avenue.

2. Ald. Boyette asked for clarification of the motion. She asked what happens to the excess dollars if we go with a lesser plan.
3. Dir. Easker indicated it would stay in reserves. The Council can decide what they want to do.
4. Ald. Boyette clarified that this is motion is not voting on a plan, it is simply voting on placing money in the budget to cover any of the plans that are chosen.
5. Ald. Bates concurred that we are taking this money from the reserves so if we go with a lesser plan, we just don't take those dollars out of reserves. Nothing would change.
6. Ald. Kunz expressed concern over whether this this motion decides how the road should be done. Whether this motion passes or fails should be a clear indication of what the Council wants to do and we should move forward on that. He questioned how quickly a plan needs to be decided to be able to put something together by the first of the year to get the best pricing.
7. Dir. Kaiser indicated he does not feel it is possible to get all the information required to get a bid out by the first of the year. He is looking to get bids out in February if possible. A design solution would need to be moved on quickly.
8. Ald. Lendrum indicated pushing this back in the budget would cause this debate all over again. It will never end.
9. Ald. Stevenson concurred that the Council need to be clear but at one point, they need to make a decision. He will vote against the amendment as this Lake Shore Drive environment is truly unique. There is no other place like it. The neighbors invite the public to utilize their lawn to get as close to the lake as they want to. Why limit them to a path. He feels we can do everything we want with it using the current plan in the budget. Why put more concrete down. He respects everyone's individual perspective on this. It is a truly unique situation.
10. Ald. Boyette asked for clarification of how we will determine which of the four plans will be used.
11. City Atty. Godlewski indicated it would go back to PSSC to review the four plans and make a recommendation to the Council. The budget amendment here is to provide enough money to cover the cost of all four plans. Whenever items are discussed on a committee agenda, there is always the possibility of public input.
12. Ald. Lang favored continuing discussion on options at committee. A 900 traffic count is not safe to have pedestrians with vehicles. She supports adding this back into the budget and discuss further in committee. Her concern is determining which plan is best for drainage, saving trees and curb & gutter.
13. Ald. Lang advised that the Lakeshore path was set in place by Helen Kimberly-Stuart with the thought that this community would have public access. This was in the 1930s. She asked if this is the kind of public access we want, walking on the street. She is

- not sure and needs to really think about this. The trees are beautiful. Her concern is that the Mayor's plan cuts down more trees than an off-street trail. She does not feel she is ready to move forward. She would like to examine the options with history in mind. She loves Neenah's history. She will support a motion for the funding of all the options as long as we examine them carefully.
14. Ald. Kunz disagreed with the City Attorney in that he does not feel this needs to go back to committee. There is only one option with a trail. The size of that trail does not add any more concrete. As far as the trees, most of the plans are the same when it comes to tree removal. He feels this is an emotional discussion. We can continue this for years. People don't want change. That is the reason we have not dealt with this issue in the past. It is now before us. He hopes we finalize this and make a decision. He does not understand why we don't put a trail there. He hopes we move on from this.
 15. Mayor Kaufert indicated this is a perfect example of the Council having and respecting the opinion of others. He and previous Mayors have avoided this for some time. He decided to include it in the budget this year. Engineers are telling us that this road has to be fixed. He believes his proposal gets the job done. He feels vehicle and pedestrians can co-exist.
 16. Ald. Boyette supports putting these funds back into the budget if the Council is willing to send this back to committee to choose a plan.
 17. Ald. Bates clarified that average speed does not mean all vehicles go that speed. She suggested discussing this in a Committee of the Whole meeting rather than committee.
 18. Ald. Steele concurred with having this discussion in a Committee of the Whole meeting. It is important to educate the public. She does not want to wait for the first accident to happen.
 19. **Motion carried, by a 6-2 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye, Ald. Stevenson and Lendrum voting nay.**
- M. **MS Kunz/Stevenson to increase the budget for Street Upgrades – City Initiated by \$85,000 to include Van Street, funding source was identified as borrowing.**
1. Dir. Easker indicated if this motion passes, it will bring us to \$122,680 under the \$10 million cap.
 2. Ald. Stevenson supported the amendment and funding by increased borrowing.
 3. Dir. Kaiser explained to Ald. Steele that the initial project was anticipated to be a resurfacing project. As they looked into the additional curb & gutter work that would be needed it became more economical to replace all of the curb along the street. The final tally was estimated at \$360,000.

4. **Motion carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- N. **MS Erickson/Lendrum to decrease the budget for Facilities – Administration Building by \$40,000 to eliminate the LED Signage Message Boards.**
1. Ald. Erickson explained that City Hall is a destination. It is not a street people typically drive on. That would be money we could save since our budget is very tight.
 2. Ald. Kunz indicated he is undecided on this. It is a good idea however would like to see it in a different location. Possibly the Library.
 3. Ald. Boyette commented that this is a great idea however it is more of a want than a need. Since this is not a highly traveled area it would not be a good location. Having these type of boards in a higher traffic volume locations within the City in the future would be great.
 4. Ald. Bates concurred that this may not be the year to place this message board. Prior to purchasing the message board we should study the proper location. She loves the idea of sharing information with the residents. She suggested putting something on the front door of City Hall where notices can be posted.
 5. Mayor Kaufert commented that the concept has been thought out. He proposed this message board. Information is vitally important. Churches, parks and the Library all have message boards. This is an opportunity, for a small amount of money, to outreach to our residents. The most popular message board in the City was the one on Wisconsin Avenue on the Glatfelter Building. Maybe we should put one up there. He asked that this remain in the budget and explore the appropriate location of the board. There are so many uses of these signs and a lot of businesses are utilizing them.
 6. Dir. Easker clarified, prior to this action, we are currently \$122,680 under the \$10 million cap.
 7. **Motion carried, by a 5-3 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye, Ald. Stevenson, Boyette and Kunz voting nay.**
- O. **MS Erickson/Boyette to decrease Facilities – Park & Recreation by \$60,000 for the Dog Park.**
1. Ald. Erickson supported doing a study first. She would like to have a plan before dollars go into the budget.
 2. Ald. Kunz indicated a dog park is a good idea however he has concern over the details. He would like greater detail. He supports a regional approach.
 3. Ald. Boyette concurred. She would like to see a more concrete plan before borrowing dollars.
 4. Ald. Stevenson supported the motion and a regional plan. This would plant the seed.
 5. Ald. Erickson suggested forming a Citizen Advisory Committee.

6. Ald. Bates supports approaching the County for their input.
 7. Ald. Kunz indicated putting this in the budget send a message of our priorities. He supports this as a regional effort. He is concerned there is no place large enough in the City.
 8. Ald. Boyette questioned if it would be detrimental to push this back one year.
 9. Mayor Kaufert added this is his priority and a priority of the community. He advised that Kimberly Clark contacted him. The property on Byrd Avenue and Brooks may be available. He feels that would be perfect. His concern is that they may not consider giving us that property if we remove this from the budget. Approving this starts the process of coming up with a plan. Winnebago County has not included any dollars for a dog park in their budget. Fox Crossing has land available but did not include dollars in the budget. He also advised that Dir. Haese has talked with the Foundry regarding the property on Winneconne Avenue.
 10. Ald. Bates
 11. Dir. Easker advised we are allowed to charge any amount we would like for pet licenses.
 12. Asst. Controller Kahl indicated we currently issue 1,200 to 1,300 pet licenses.
 13. Ald. Steele agreed that keeping this in the budget does send a message that a dog park is one of our priorities.
 14. **Motion failed 4-5 with Mayor Kaufert voting nay to break a tie vote, Ald. Erickson, Boyette, Bates & Lendrum voting aye, Ald. Steele, Kunz, Stevenson and Lang voting nay and Mayor Kaufert voting nay to break the tie.**
- P. **MS Stevenson/Lendrum to move \$500,000 from Facilities / Arrowhead Park into TIF #10 budget with the caveat this be reviewed once final project costs are received and a final TIF review is completed. This will have no budget ramification.**
1. Ald. Stevenson clarified that the 2020 budget includes \$1.4 million dollars in Arrowhead Park being funded by the Facilities / Arrowhead Park budget not in TIF #10. His request moves \$500,000 of the \$1.4 million into TIF #10 if after Dir. Kading provides the final costs for 2020 in TIF #10 and proformas are reviewed there is money available.
 2. Dir. Easker clarified for Ald. Kunz that this does not need to go before the Joint review Board. The current project plan allows for some flexibility. Some of the work to be done includes infrastructure / streets. We do have money in the budget for parks and beautification. We also have some redevelopment money that could be used. He asked Dir. Haese for his input.
 3. Dir. Haese concurred indicating it is not required to go before the Joint Review Board. If we are cautious and judicious on how we do this it would not require going before the Joint Review Board. In the picture of the overall TIF plan, this is a small portion.

4. Dir. Easker clarified that with this, we have maxed out our ability to TIF anything else on Arrowhead Park.
 5. Ald. Bates asked if this would change our bond rating.
 6. Dir. Easker indicated it would not however we would need to designate this money different for borrowing purposes, specific to the TIF.
 7. Mayor Kaufert added that he originally had some concerns because the proforma currently shows a very small negative, but manageable balance. He is confident that we will see an increase in increment valuation. Fixing the roads will help that valuation.
 8. **Motion carried, by a 7-1 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye, Ald. Boyette voting nay.**
- Q. Dir. Easker gave results as of these amendment. Borrowing \$9,858,000 and \$162,000 under the \$10 million cap.
- R. Ald. Kunz asked how other alderperson felt and requested Department Heads, per discussion in the budget workshops, bring potential budget reductions by December 31st instead of June 2020.
- S. **MS Steele/Kunz to increase I/S Operations Budget by \$46,750 for net wage and fringe cost to hire new G.I.S. Technician.**
1. Dir. Easker advised that any additional spending in the General Fund would require that amount reduced elsewhere or we lose the \$530,000. He further explained that the State of Wisconsin has strict limits on what percentage we can increase expenditures within our General Fund Operating Budget. The Operating Budget from 2019-2020 can only increase by 2.56%. The increase we currently have in our budget is up to that limit. Any additional spending in the General Fund would require that same amount taken our somewhere else in the General Fund.
 2. Ald. Steele withdrew her motion.
 3. Ald. Kunz withdrew his second.
 4. No vote was taken.
- T. **MS Bates/Boyette move the \$50,000 for Abby Avenue to borrowing rather than reserves.**
1. Mayor Kaufert explained that he intends to add Gillingham Road back into the budget using \$100,000 Reserves and \$100,000 borrowing. If this motion passes, we would not be able to add Gillingham Road back in.
 2. Ald. Bates withdrew her motion.
 3. Ald. Boyette withdrew her second.
 4. No vote was taken.
- U. **MS Bates/Boyette to increase the CIP by \$200,000 to add Gillingham Road back into the budget using \$100,000 Reserves and borrowing \$100,000.**
1. Dir. Kaiser indicated he appreciates this coming forward. Gillingham is rated a two. There is alligator cracking throughout the asphalt paving. This would a good improvement for a heavily use traffic route with both passenger vehicle and trucks.

2. Dir. Easker advised if the \$200,000 is approved there would need to be a funding source that includes both reserves and borrowing. He further clarified that the Reserve balance is \$3 million dollars. He is hesitant to get so close to the cap therefore would favor funding at least half from reserves. He clarified for Ald. Kunz that if dollars are borrowed and not spent, the balance would go into reserves. That money does earn interest for the City. It does benefit the City. It gave us enough cash flow and flexibility to purchase the garbage trucks / containers close to a year early before borrowing the money.
3. Mayor Kaufert indicated the longer we wait on these streets the more costly it becomes. The motion is to fund the \$200,000 with \$100,000 reserves and \$100,000 borrowing.
4. Ald. Stevenson indicated he would like to fund the entire project with Reserves rather than max out at \$10 million dollars of borrowing.
5. **MS Stevenson/Kunz to amend the motion to fund the entire \$200,000 project using Reserves.**
 - a) Mayor Kaufert commented that his goal is not to go the max. That was a goal because of the borrowing restriction. He looked at this street and felt it could last another year. Because we saved in other area, he thought this project might be able to be added back in.
 - b) **The amendment carried, by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
 - c) **The original motion, as amended, carried by an 8-0 RollCall-Pro System vote, all voting aye.**
- V. Dir. Easker recapped indicating the total levy is at \$19,102,026. The assessed rate \$8.1936. The borrowing for capital project is \$9,858,320 leaving us under the \$10 million dollar cap by \$162,680. There were \$200,000 General Fund Reserves used to support the budget. We will have \$2,500 under the Expenditure Restraint and use \$341,000 of Infrastructure Street Reserves. This leaves an estimated balance of \$2.7 but the 2019 projects are not factored in. The Operating Budget did not change.
- W. **The original motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-24 approving the 2020 Operating and Capital Improvements Program Budgets submitted by the Mayor, as amended, carried by the Voting-Pro System, all voting aye.**
- X. Council President Stevenson thanked staff for their work on this budget. He congratulated those in attendance for sticking around listening.
- Y. Mayor Kaufert indicated there was a lot of hard work put into this budget by staff, Council, Finance, Department Heads and himself. He thanked everyone for putting together this budget and doing what is best for the community. It is a fiscally responsible document that will bring dividends for this community down the road.
- Z. Mayor Kaufert advised that the Budget Public Hearing portion of the meeting noticed for tomorrow night will be cancelled.

Adjournment

- I. **MSC Bates/Boyette to adjourn at 10:34 p.m., all voting aye.**


Patricia A. Sturn, WCPC/MMC
City Clerk



In the end our society
will be defined not only
by what we create
but by what we
refuse to destroy.

John Sawhill