



THE WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS
WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PROSPECT HEIGHTS CITY HALL,
8 NORTH ELMHURST ROAD, PROSPECT HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS
MAYOR NICHOLAS J. HELMER PRESIDING**

**DURING WHICH MEETING IT IS ANTICIPATED THERE WILL BE DISCUSSION AND
CONSIDERATION OF AND, IF SO DETERMINED, ACTION UPON
THE MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING:**

CALL TO ORDER – At 6:37 PM, Mayor Nicholas Helmer called to order the Regular Workshop Meeting of December 10, 2018 at City Hall, 8 North Elmhurst Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070.

ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM – City Clerk Morgan-Adams called roll. There was a quorum present/
ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT – Mayor Helmer, Treasurer Tibbits, City Clerk Morgan-Adams
ALDERMEN – Ludvigsen, Messer, Dolick, Williamson, Rosenthal
OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT – City Administrator Wade, Assistant to the City Administrator Falcone, Deputy Clerk Schultheis, Police Chief Steffen, Deputy Police Chief Zawlocki, Deputy Clerk Schultheis, Public Works Superintendent Roscoe, Attorney Kearney, Director of Building and Development Peterson, Digital Communications Technician Colvin, and Finance Director DuCharme.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Audience Participation – led by Executive Assistant Batten

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 26, 2018 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

B. November 12, 2018 City Council Executive Session Minutes – **Alderman Williamson moved to approve the November 26, 2018 City Council Regular Minutes as presented and the November 12, 2018 City Council Executive Session**

Minutes as presented but not for public release; seconded by Alderman Messer. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

PRESENTATION

A. Police Department Awards – as presented by Chief Steffen and Deputy Chief Zawlocki

Community Service Awards:

Community Outreach Program, Torch Run, Cop On a Rooftop, Plane Pull, Thanksgiving Food Drive, No Shave November Cancer Collection, National Night Out, Community Day, Coffee with a Cop.

Sergeants: Stone, Caponigro

Corporals: Pufundt, Lange, Smith

Officers:

Derman, Willis, Thibeault, Coglianesi, Simpson, O'Connor, Garza, Weber, Deol, Zitkus, Savas

Records: Bolger, Mendez, Martinez

Part Time Desk: Furlan, Pawlus, Sigsworth

City Hall: Batten

Officer Of The Year: Corporal Mark Pufundt

Mayor Helmer spoke about Chief Steffen's retirement. He said that the City would appoint a new Police Chief on January 14, 2019 at the Gary Morava Center at 5:30 PM. Deputy Chief Zawlocki spoke regarding Chief Steffen, noting that he had held every rank in the Prospect Heights Police Department and been with the Police Department since its inception in 1990. Chief Steffen spoke and thanked the City, the Police Department and the Staff and elected officials. City Clerk Morgan-Adams read a proclamation regarding Chief Steffen.

B. Commission Reports – Dana Sievertson of the Natural Resources Commission – Agnes Wojnarski gave an update regarding the efforts of the Natural Resources Commission. She noted that the Commission had conducted 39 workdays in 2018. The two main goals this year - to provide as much community outreach and education focusing on the younger generation and to get invasives at all of the sites under control. The NRC values partnership and education as part of their civic responsibility.

The NRC is working with such groups as KidsCare for children ages 2 – 14 – they plant native species and get to see them growing the next year. They have sponsored Bird Walks, and showcased Slough birds through professional photography.

There have been speakers regarding conservation.

Chairman Wojnarski said that many more species of animals have been spotted in the conservation areas stating that "if you change the habitat, you change the inhabitants."

The NRC is attempting to increase access to the public to the wetlands. They have already created walking trails and interpretive signage in 2018.

The summer internship program – Both interns are from Prospect Heights. Jeremy Schultz – after two intern stints with the NRC he was hired as a natural Area Project Manager Assistant and Gabriela Szyniec is currently attending the University of Colorado as Wildlife Biology/Restoration Ecology student.

C. Mid-Year Budget Report by Finance Director Mike DuCharme – Noted that the positive variances outweigh the negative ones. The Finance Director is expecting to see a \$95,000 variance in income tax revenue due to the fact that when the state adopted the Budget, it only expected to receive a 5% from municipalities; but the City had budgeted for 10%. He also noted that legal fees were much higher for the first six months of the year. The Finance Director is expecting to see a \$118,000 negative variance. Overall, he is expecting a positive variance of \$235,000 in the General Fund; and a negative of \$118,000.

He said that in the past, there were many amendments to the budget because the budgets were put together without good target planning. This year, there is better planning regarding the budget numbers. – **No action was taken.**

D. Residential and Commercial Solid Waste, Recycling, and Landscape Collection Request for Proposal Discussion and Request for Council Decision – It was noted that the services will cost a great deal less with no reduction in the scope of the services. He said that this is the first time that the City has done a waste management RFP in 12 years.

Assistant to the City Administrator Falcone provided a spreadsheet to the Council, and noted that the Single Family, multi-family and townhomes would all be achieving substantial savings. Flood Brothers was chosen because the rates will be lowered between 18% and 25% for residential rates. There will be a \$19,000 per month savings for the residents; or, over \$200,000 per year. For commercial, reductions were between 20-39% or around \$3000 per month. Flood Brothers had the lowest proposal. City Administrator Wade said that they had checked the references of Flood Brothers with other communities and they had received glowing reviews. It was also noted that they had agreed to provide free services to religious communities.

Alderman Rosenthal moved to authorize Staff and Legal Counsel to finalize an agreement and resolution for residential and commercial solid waste, recycling and landscape collection; seconded by Alderman Dolick. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

Attorney Kearney said that the agreement would need to be finalized and brought back to Council. It was noted by the City Administrator that the waste pick up date would remain as Friday.

APPOINTMENTS/CONFIRMATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A. Announcement of Resignation of Police Chief Al Steffen, Effective January 1, 2019, and Appointment of Jim Zawlocki as Police Chief, Effective January 1, 2019 – Mayor Helmer recommended Deputy Chief Zawlocki to replace Chief Steffen. **Alderman**

Williamson moved to approve Jim Zawlocki as the new Police Chief effective 1/1/2019; seconded by Alderman Dolick. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

It was noted that the Police Chief appoints the Deputy Chief.

B. A Proclamation in Honor of the Exceptional Public Service Contributions by Police Chief Al Steffen to the City of Prospect Heights – the Proclamation had been read previously.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS (agenda matters) - None

STAFF, ELECTED OFFICIALS, and COMMISSION REPORTS

Alderman Ludvigsen – Ward 4 – thanked Public Works for handling the matter of downed trees.

Deputy Clerk Schultheis – Discussed the April 2, 2019 elections as candidates were registering from December 10 -17, 2018.

Public Works Superintendent Roscoe – said that snow damage had caused debris that was being cleaned up. He noted that bundled debris would be picked up on December 14 in the trash removal. He presented eight strategic questions.

DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR WORKSHOP MEETING:

A. Staggered Elections – **Not discussed**

B. Sanitary Sewer Delinquent Payments – Finance Director DuCharme said that the City is taking whatever action it can to pursue delinquent sewer bills. Past due notices have been sent out but none have gone to collections yet. The City has little leverage. It was noted that in the past, the City had very little luck with amnesty programs. The Mayor noted that Chicago and Schaumburg have had successful amnesty programs.

Finance Director DuCharme noted that amnesty programs are normally used for tickets not something that every resident is impacted by. Generally, amnesty is a one-time deal not something used for a recurring charge.

So far, out of the \$60,000 owed, only \$15,000 has been paid.

It was noted that some people had already paid late fees.

Court approval would be needed to shut off a residents' sewer system.

The Department of Building and Development does withhold permits from those who are not up to date with their fees.

It was suggested by the Treasurer that the City have waste hauler collect the bills, but it was noted that there would be complications of having a private entity collect the fees - **No action was taken.**

Alderman Rosenthal m- had given information to the Council regarding the Willow Road Project. He is proposing a five-person task force regarding strategic questions to

determine the future direction of this project with the MWRD. He offered to have the task force meet in January or February.

City Administrator Wade gave the status of the IGA - he noted that the City is still working with Globetrotters Engineering and the MWRD.

The Willow Road Project Information has been included in the Minutes, as per request.

It was noted that the five-person task force will consist of two aldermen, the city administrator and two representatives from the community. That area is served by two separate aldermen. The Alderman would be from Wards 3 and 4, the City Administrator and two representatives from the community.

City Administrator Wade said that the NRC had expressed interest in this project, but Aldermen said that their involvement would be premature.

It was noted that the City does not own Willow Road.

Attorney Kearney said this would be an **Ad Hoc Committee or Advisory Board**

City Administrator Wade said that this year alone Willow Road has been closed seven Times – over time, the City has lost two squad cars in the floods. MWRD is working toward is to split the project – Willow Road and Hillcrest/Owen. It could be a package as a whole or split into projects.

It was noted the MWRD is giving the project \$2.8 million to prevent flooding.

The Council was concerned about the possibility of the project going away – Attorney Kearney said that an Ad Hoc Committee could not usurp the Council. The Committee could not impact the MWRD timeline.

Attorney Kearney said that he would draft a Resolution for the Committee. **Alderman Rosenthal moved to direct Council to draft a Resolution for a five member Committee for the Willow Road Project and direct Staff to solicit members for induction once established; seconded by Alderman Messer.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:	AYES –	Messer, Rosenthal, Ludvigsen, Dolick
	NAYS -	Williamson
	ABSENT -	None

Motion carried 4 - 1

CONSENT AGENDA -

A. O-18-36 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Police Pension Fund (**2nd Reading**)

B. O-18-37 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number One (**2nd Reading**)

C. O-18-38 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Two (**2nd Reading**)

D. O-18-39 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Three (**2nd Reading**)

E. O-18-40 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Four (**2nd Reading**)

F. O-18-41 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Five (**2nd Reading**)

G. O-18-42 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Eight (**2nd Reading**)

H. Approval of 2019 City Council Meeting Calendar

Alderman Messer moved for omnibus approval of the Consent Agenda as presented to include O-18-36 Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Police Pension Fund; O-18-37 Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number One; O-18-38 Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Two; O-18-39 Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Three; O-18-40 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Four; O-18-41 Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Five; O-18-42 An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of 2018 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and ending April 30, 2019 in and for the City of Prospect Heights Special Service Area Number Eight; and Approval of 2019 City Council Meeting Calendar; seconded by Alderman Rosenthal. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

OLD BUSINESS

A. O-18-35 Staff Memo and Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for an Automobile Storage Facility at 1326 N. Rand Rd. in the City's B-3 Commercial, Wholesale and General Services District (**2nd Reading**) ***Tabled from November 26th Workshop Meeting – this meeting has been tabled until first meeting in February, as per request of the City Attorney. Alderman Williamson moved to Table O-18-35 Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit for an Automobile Storage Facility at 1326 N. Rand Rd. in the City's B-3 Commercial, Wholesale and General Services District until the first meeting in February, 2019; seconded by Alderman Rosenthal. There was unanimous approval.***

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

NEW BUSINESS

A. Requested Wavier of 1st Reading O-18-44 Staff Memo and Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow an Automobile Laundry and Car Wash Facility at 1320 N. Rand Rd, Arlington Heights, IL – Mr. Thomas Kim presented – Elk Grove, IL. He noted that his firm was not a franchise. The company is Everwash. Director of Building and Development Peterson said that there was a deadline for closing, so that Everwash was looking for conditional approval. It was noted by Mr. Kim that delay would cause Everwash to incur penalties. A video of the car wash was shown to the Council. This is a subscription car wash.

Attorney Kearny said that the City would want an economic agreement in place before special use. Council could be approved subject to execution of an economic incentive agreement but it is not preferable.

Mr. Thomas said that he offered the City an upfront payment in order to waive the economic incentive agreement. The current agreement would ask for 1.5% of gross but that ends being 8% of net profits to carwash. However, the carwash would accept whatever the City preferred.

Director of Building and Development Peterson said that the PZBA had unanimously approved the carwash.

Alderman Ludvigsen moved to waive the first reading of O-18-44 Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow an Automobile Laundry and Car Wash Facility at 1320 N. Rand Rd, Arlington Heights, IL conditional to under Section 2 that the Special Use is granted subject to the execution of the City's standard economic agreement with 1 ½% surcharge; seconded by Alderman Dolick. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

Attorney Kearney said that the City would not be able to actually execute an Agreement until January when a resolution would need to be approved.

B. O-18-44 Staff Memo and Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow an Automobile Laundry and Car Wash Facility at 1320 N. Rand Rd, Arlington Heights, IL
Alderman Messer moved to approve O-18-44 Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow an Automobile Laundry and Car Wash Facility at 1320 N. Rand Rd, Arlington Heights, IL conditional to under Section 2 that the Special Use is granted subject to the execution of the City's standard economic agreement with 1 ½% surcharge; seconded by Alderman Dolick. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

C. Requested Wavier of 1st Reading O-18-43 A Staff Memo and Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow a Sit Down Restaurant at 1 E. Camp McDonald Road (**1st Reading**) – George Sellis, the proprietor, gave a presentation.

Alderman Messer moved to waive first reading of O-18-43, an ordinance Approving a Special use permit to Allow a Sit Down Restaurant at 1 E Camp McDonald Road on the condition of legal approval; seconded by Alderman Dolick There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

D. O-18-43 A Staff Memo and Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow a Sit Down Restaurant at 1 E. Camp McDonald Road (**2nd Reading**) – Mr. Sellis said that this will be an all-you-can-eat salad, soup, pizza buffet – and pizza party room for the kids. There will be morning coffee/lunch/dinner. There will 4-5 parking spaces allotted. He will apply for a beer and wine license. **Alderman Messer moved to Approving a Special use permit to Allow a Sit Down Restaurant at 1 E Camp McDonald Road on the condition of legal approval; seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen There was unanimous approval.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

E. R-18-46 Staff Memo and Resolution Authorizing an Agreement for Financial Services with Lauterbach and Amen

F. R-18-47 Staff Memo and Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with FlexSource, LLC to Manage the City's Health Reimbursement Account 105 Plan for Union Police Sergeants and Officers

G. R-18-48 Staff Memo and Resolution Approving Bid and Contract with Midwest Salt, LLC for Purchase and Delivery of Salt for the 2018-2019 Season at a Cost Not to Exceed \$81,835.94

H. R-18-49 Staff Memo and Resolution Approving a Proposal for Professional Services for Phase I Engineering of the Wolf Road Sidewalk with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. for a Cost Not to Exceed \$92,104.00 –

I. R-18-50 Resolution Adopting City of Prospect Heights Qualifications-Based Selection Written Policy and Procedure in Compliance with State of Illinois Local Government Professional Services Selection Act, 50 ILCS 510 - **Alderman Ludvigsen moved for omnibus approval of –R-18-46 Resolution Authorizing an Agreement for Financial Services with Lauterbach and Amen; R-18-47 Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with FlexSource, LLC to Manage the City's Health Reimbursement Account 105 Plan for Union Police Sergeants and Officers; R-18-48 Resolution Approving Bid and Contract with Midwest Salt, LLC for Purchase and Delivery of Salt for the 2018-2019 Season at a Cost Not to Exceed \$81,835.94; R-18-49 Resolution Approving a Proposal for Professional Services for Phase I Engineering of the Wolf Road**

Sidewalk with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. for a Cost Not to Exceed \$92,104.00; R-18-50 Resolution Adopting City of Prospect Heights Qualifications-Based Selection Written Policy and Procedure in Compliance with State of Illinois Local Government Professional Services Selection Act, 50 ILCS 510; seconded by Alderman Messer. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

J. R-18-51 Authorizing the Execution of Contracts to Accept the Donation of Real Property Located on Plaza Drive – **Alderman Messer moved to Authorize the execution of contracts to accept the donation of Real property located on Plaza Drive conditional to donor address completion; seconded by Alderman Ludvigsen. There was unanimous approval.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

There was a question regarding whether the City would be liable if someone did not pay their property tax. It was noted by the City Attorney that the title issues would be reviewed before acceptance. We would file a property tax exemption with the County.

K. Staff Memo for Request for Discussion/Direction Regarding Lexington Homes Request for Lake Water Service from Village of Wheeling – It was noted that the VP of Lexington Homes was appealing to Wheeling for Lake water. They letter would be in support.

Alderman Messer moved to direct Staff to write the letter in support of Lexington Homes request for Lake Water service to Wheeling; seconded by Alderman Dolick. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

A. Approval of Expenditures

General Fund	\$464,558.91
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$0.00
Palatine/Milwaukee Tax Increment Financing District	\$0.00
Tourism District	\$62,764.75

Development Fund	\$0.00
Drug Enforcement Agency Fund	\$0.00
Solid Waste Fund	\$27,484.34
Special Service Area #1	\$0.00
Special Service Area #2	\$0.00
Special Service Area #3	\$0.00
Special Service Area #4	\$0.00
Special Service Area #5	\$892.17
Special Service Area #8 – Levee Wall #37	\$1,400.90
Special Service Area-Constr #6 (Water Main)	\$0.00
Special Service Area- Debt #6	\$0.00
Capital Improvements	\$68,470.81
Palatine Road Tax Increment Financing	\$3,917.00
Road Construction	\$0.00
Road Construction Debt	\$0.00
Water Fund	\$30,529.91
Parking Fund	\$847.71
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$8,349.53
Road/Building Bond Escrow	<u>\$1,630.00</u>
TOTAL	\$670,846.03
<u>Wire Payments</u>	
11/23/2018 PAYROLL POSTING	\$136,881.51
12/7/2018 PAYROLL POSTING	\$152,309.71
TOTAL WARRANT	<u>\$960,037.25</u>

City Clerk Morgan-Adams read the warrants.

Alderman Messer moved to approve the warrants as read, seconded by Alderman Williamson to include a TOTAL of \$670,846.03; 11/23/2018 PAYROLL POSTING of \$136,881.51; 12/7/2018 PAYROLL POSTING of \$152,309.71; and a TOTAL WARRANT of \$960,037.25. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-agenda matters) – None

Chief Steffen noted that there are three new patrol officers that will begin the services with the City on January 7, 2019.

He thanked the Council and Staff and City for their support over the years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS, IF REQUIRED

ADJOURNMENT – At 9:10 PM, Alderman Williamson moved to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Messer. There was unanimous approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES - Williamson, Rosenthal, Messer, Dolick, Ludvigsen
NAYS - None
ABSENT - None

Motion carried 5 - 0

Approved by the City Council of Prospect Heights on this the 14th day of January, 2019.

City Clerk Morgan-Adams

Mayor Nicholas J. Helmer

Willow Road Project (WRP)

Recently, the Council received a presentation from the MWRD on the proposed MWRD project. I came away from that presentation with more questions and concerns about it than I had before I heard the presentation and I reviewed the takeaway materials from the presentation. I also undertook in person review of the locale. I suggest that before we proceed any further and rush into an IGA, we review the issue of the WRP in a dispassionate and deliberative manner which will involve not only participation of the Council and staff, but will also include the direct and active participation by those who are most directly affected by the WRP project; the community, neighborhood and the residents of the Lake and of the Slough.

I propose that we establish a special five-person Task Force or Project Team to address the following strategic questions and present a data driven response and recommended action plan that the Council will deliberate upon and determine the future direction and oversight of this project.

Strategic Questions

1. Where is the impetus coming from to undertake the WRP?
2. Who and what portion of the City will benefit from the expense to be incurred by the City?
3. What is the current impact of the problem we are hoping to solve by undertaking this project?
4. What will be the environmental impact of the MWRD proposal and project scope?
 - Impact on the lake
 - Impact on the Slough
5. Given the proposed approach to handle the compensatory drainage issue what will its impact be throughout the City's natural water system?
6. What do the neighborhoods think about the WRP?
 - Are they for it? Why?
 - Are they against it? Why?
 - Don't they care either way? Why?
7. What is the core problem or issue we are trying to address and solve? Are there alternative approaches that will achieve the same result at a more cost effective and cost-efficient way?
8. Since only a preliminary (30%) engineering study has been performed at this time, if the next phase (60%) uncovers new unanticipated harmful consequences, can we as a city have the ability to demand that those issues be addressed, or if need be, stop the entire project if we deem it to be in our best interest? In other words, what control do we retain over this project once we sign the IGA?
9. What other strategic questions need to be addressed?

Finally, can we as a Council convene a Task Force or Project Team with a focused charge to address these and other strategic questions in a manner in which we can have oversight on the project and so that we as the Council can make an informed "information-based" decision on what future direction Prospect Heights should take with respect to the WRP.

If there are questions of the structure of such an organizational unit I will happy to share my thoughts with you.

I request that this text and content be incorporated and made a part of the minutes of this meeting.