

CITY OF DELAFIELD COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

Call Common Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Attwell called the Common Council meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:Present

Doug Saloga, Ald. D1 (via phone)

Jim Behrend, Ald. D2

Jackie Valde, Ald. D3

Wayne Dehn, Ald. D4

Phil Kasun, Ald. D6

Tim Aicher, Ald. D7

Kent Attwell, Mayor

Tom Hafner, Administrator/ City of Public Works Director

Absent

Matt Grimmer, Ald. D5

1.) City of Delafield Citizens' Comments

Mary Daniel, 309 Wisconsin Avenue – Spoke on item 2.a. – Information that was provided at the August 17, 2020 Council meeting stated the debt service projection is up 5.25%, money going out. General fund projection is .75%, money coming in. In 2011 the Common Council approved a bell-curve of 5% for debt service. This is going in the wrong direction. We need to pause on our capital projects for a 5-year period of time and pay down the debt and maintain what we have in place. She would like to know what the outstanding debt for capital projects is. The operating budget and capital budget are very connected. They both need to be reviewed.

Susie Thompson, 700 Milwaukee Street – Appreciates the details that came out this afternoon for tonight's meeting. It puts it into a different formula, but it is still \$18 per \$100,000 of assessed value. The operating budget versus payroll are two different things and addressed in different ways. The public is confused about that issue. We cannot swing money from one to the other. She is looking forward to more clear guidance on this.

Hearing no one else present who wishes to speak - citizen's comments were closed.

2.) Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution approving a referendum for allowing the City of Delafield to exceed the state-imposed property tax levy limit.

Administrator Hafner explained that the City had asked the Department of Revenue to review our resolution and ballot language about a week and a half ago. They did not get back to us until mid-afternoon yesterday. In order to be on the ballot, the Council has to approve the language by today. The Department of Revenue has changed what has been known to be common practice with the ballot language. Most notably, in the past, any increase has been stated prior to any adjustments (base levy). Now they are asking us to state that in terms of our total levy which \$1.8M to \$1.9M higher than our base levy because it includes our debt. Nothing has changed as far as what the City is asking for. We are still asking the public to allow us to exceed the levy limit by just over \$257,000. We are now comparing it to a levy of over \$6M so the percentage is significantly lower than the 7% we originally had. To keep it at the exact same dollar amount the percent is 4.011%. The two other significant changes are the net new construction needs to be stated at three decimal places and they confirmed the sentence the Council wanted added to the end of the ballot language is not allowed.

Valde – Will the state approve this language. Hafner confirmed that the Department of Revenue is the approving authority.

Aicher – Do they audit referendum questions. Hafner stated that if you want to make sure that your language is acceptable you have to do it this way.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN AICHER, SECOND BY ALDERMAN BEHREND, TO READOPT RESOLUTION 2020-11, APPROVING A REFERENDUM FOR ALLOWING THE CITY OF DELAFIELD TO EXCEED THE STATE IMPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT, WITH THE CHANGES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AS PRESENTED.

Dehn – Commented on the sections of the resolution that say the Common Council believes it is in the city's best interest to exceed the state levy limit and that the Council supports an increase in the city tax levy. He asked if this language is a requirement. He is for allowing citizens to have a voice and taking this to referendum, but if he votes for this he would be saying he is in favor for raising taxes.

Hafner – Explained the language is a standard template provided by the WI League of Municipalities and they identify that the resolution shall read as follows.

Aicher – This is the vehicle for getting the referendum on the ballot.

Behrend – Dehn's point is well made, but this is what is before us. Even if the referendum passes, we are going to try to work on a budget that is less. Unfortunately we aren't able to change the language. Assumes since the League has recommended this language, our best practice is to follow it.

Dehn – Does not believe this is in the best interest of the city. We should have cuts.

Kasun – Asked if this is binding referendum. Hafner explained if the referendum is approved it increases our allowable levy, but the Council does not have to tax up to the allowable levy.

Valde – It is being placed where it needs to be and that is in the vote of the citizens and the taxpayers.

5 IN FAVOR WITH DEHN VOTING NAY. MOTION CARRIED.

3.) Adjournment

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Mary Green

Minutes approved on: September 21, 2020