



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Common Council

*Mayor John T. Dickert, President, Alderman Terry McCarthy
Alderman Dennis Wisner, Alderman Jim Kaplan
Alderman Q.A. Shakoor, II, Alderman Ronald D. Hart,
Alderman Sandy Weidner
Alderman Krystyna Sarrazin, Alderman Jeff Coe, Alderman
Michael Shields
Alderman Melissa Kaprelian-Becker, Alderman Raymond
DeHahn,
Alderman Gregory Holding, Alderman James Morgenroth
Alderman Edward E. Diehl, Alderman Henry Perez*

Monday, October 21, 2013

6:00 PM

Room 205, City Hall

A. Call To Order

PRESENT: 13 - Sarrazin, Shields, Kaplan, Kaprelian-Becker, Weidner, DeHahn, Shakoor, II, McCarthy, Holding, Perez, Morgenroth, Hart and Diehl
EXCUSED: 2 - Coe and Wisner

B. Pledge of Allegiance To The Flag

Mayor Dickert led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Dickert's 2014 Budget Address

Alderman, Mr. President, and residents of the great City of Racine, I introduce to you the 2014 City Budget.

As I prepared for this speech I did some reflecting on where we were and how far we have come together.

You can see from our operating expenditures that we have done our best to hold the line on spending while seeing less and less of our shared revenue.

We have faced adversity and our residents have sacrificed. We have faced problems and turned them into opportunities. The choices we've had to make are not made lightly, but we have done what is right and not taken the easy way out.

We have worked together to protect our fund balance to keep our reserves in tact to protect us from the rainy day or the catastrophes that have caught other cities unprepared.

This year like others has had its challenges. We faced a revenue shortfall of more than \$2 million.

How did we respond? We once again made the necessary cuts in staff and services to meet our budget, because of the state imposed levy limits.

This year's city budget includes;

- *A 2% increase in wages that was approved by the council for 3 bargaining groups. (Police, Fire and local 67 employees)*
- *An increase in health care costs of \$1.2 million*
- *Increases in Electric, Lighting, Water, Gas and Diesel*

We lost revenue in the following areas:

- *Revenue from Interest income is down & fees and permits for a total loss of \$800,000*

We have to continue to do more with less. So we responded by;

- *Reducing a total of 11.4 Full time positions (Slide 4)*
- *Imposing 3 more furlough days by our very committed staff – none, however, from Police or Fire employees.*

This leaves us with a 0% increase for services and 2.2% for long term debt. Combined we will see a 2.2% increase.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said:

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you." –

We cannot build a better Racine if we continue to cut, because our budget and our priorities reflect who we are.

Therefore, starting at the end of this budget we will meet with each department and the Council to start building our City in a way never done before.

We will begin by to prioritizing the services that are important to our citizens and our quality of life and we will work with other organizations and private partners to meet the challenges that we as a city just simply cannot afford any longer.

While the prospect of any increased revenues from the State or Federal Government remains bleak, our city will build on what is important to our residents:

Good services, safe streets, opportunities for our families, our parks, waterfront, shopping districts or our museums – all of which bring people from all over the world to Racine. We will not abandon what makes us unique!

We stay committed to creating job opportunities for our residents and build our economy for the future. While we may have to cut back on some services we will broker more partnerships with the private community to do more with less. But we will never give up on our residents or our future.

Ideas that we will be evaluating over the next year include;

- *Prioritizing and partnering with the local organizations to provide more service for our children at our community centers.*
- *Evaluating ways to provide additional ambulance service while saving tax dollars.*
- *Options for boosting revenue to cover the shortfalls in areas like the cemetery, civic center and our beachfront.*

Everyone has to be part of the solution! We look to new ideas because we will face a challenge in 2015 with a projected deficit of nearly \$6 million. Much work still lies ahead of us.

I know that times are tough, that's why I'm not asking for additional fee increases in

this budget. Instead, we will pursue more grants and funding from alternative sources, including private partnerships.

As I have been doing for the last 4 years -I will seek out developers and investors attracting them to our beautiful city and encouraging them to work with us to build a better community.

Finally, I, along with other Wisconsin Mayors, are persist in our efforts to stave off harmful state legislation that would add more unfunded mandates to the city or take more money out of our already depleted budget.

Local government has borne the brunt of decreased revenues while being required to meet more state mandates over the past few years. This battle continues and we will be diligent in our resolve on this front.

We are all in this together and together we will build and grow Racine. We may not have as much money to do it with, but will always have enough heart.

Together we will work within our limitations to grow expectations and a bright future. Thank you.

C. Communication

[13-9465](#)

Subject: Communication from Mayor Dickert submitting the 2014 proposed budgets for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Fund, Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds; Capital Projects and the 2014-2023 Capital Improvement Plan.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

D. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M. by Alderman Shakoore. The next scheduled meeting of the Council is November 5, 2013.

ATTEST: JANICE M. JOHNSON-MARTIN
CITY CLERK