
Meeting of the:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
Date/Time:	Tuesday, October 24, 2017; To convene immediately following the adjournment of the Regular Common Council meeting
Location:	Council Chambers (2 nd Floor Public Safety Building) 321 S Fourth Street
Members:	Tim Swadley, Sid Boersma, Michael Engelberger, Regina Hirsch, Greg Jenson, Kathleen Johnson, Dennis Kittleson, Lisa Reeves, Tom Majewski, Pat O'Connor, Scott Truehl, Scott Bartlett, and Mayor Olson

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Swadley called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 8:26 p.m.

Clerk Kropf noted that all twelve alderpersons and the Mayor were present.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued discussion and possible action regarding the proposed 2018 General Fund Budget:

Swadley noted that this meeting was convened to allow alders that were not present at the last budget meeting to ask questions or if other alders had questions. Boersma asked Finance Director LaBorde about the City's current and potential future borrowing. Finance Director LaBorde noted that the City does have room to borrow and that the City may reach the 4% limit within the next two years. This would be determined by future Council purchases, demolitions, and projects. She noted that currently the City is at a very healthy debt ratio with an Aa-2 Moody's rating. Moody's does take into consideration the City's debt when setting that rating and also looks at the debt amounts that are paid off on an annual basis.

Kittleson asked if the Leadership team provides detailed information regarding their budget requests for personnel. He felt that the information was very vague and wondered if there was any data to support certain requests. Planning Director Scheel explained some of the details of a candid conversation relating to short staffing in all of departments, being able to educate developers on the forefront for the whole picture of a development, and that Council needs to treat staff with more respect. Kittleson talked to the point that staff feels that they can't approach Council for fear of hostility.

Hirsch noted that every year the Council is asked to add more public safety workers and every year it is denied. She asked how this can be resolved in the future. Mayor Olson noted that these requests are handled the same way for all departments. Hirsch stated that if the net new construction amount will not allow for additional staff, what is the plan moving forward to fill the staffing gaps.

Truehl requested that moving forward, the staffing needs of the City should be treated in the same manner as the City's Capital Improvement Plan and that a plan be developed to address these shortfalls. This plan would identify the growth trends and would indicate the need for the additional staff, over a five year time span.

Swadley would like to see the net new construction formula explained to the Council along with an explanation of where development will take the City in future years. This Council should draft a resolution to send to the State Legislators to identify problems with budget issues that stem from state law enactment related to levy limits.

Truehl explained that he would like to see the budget support another police officer, as requested by Chief Leck. He noted that he and other members of the Council should review the budget and see if there is any

room to hire a police officer. These findings should be presented to the Council on November 14, 2017.
No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jenson, to adjourn the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, second by Majewski.
Motion carried 13-0. The meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 9:36 p.m.