

Economic Development Committee
Tuesday, May 28, 2013 - 4:30 p.m. - City Council Chambers

Members present: Morack, O'Connell, Romberg, Steinhorst, Schirpke, and Shaw
Excused: Tate and Dyreson

Also present: Mayor Henke, Administrator Hager, Joe Marquardt, Director of Business Services for the New London School District.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morack at 4:30 p.m. O'Connell/Steinhorst to adopt the agenda. Carried 6-0.
2. Chairman Morack welcomed Joe Marquardt, Director of Business Services for the School District. Mr. Marquardt presented a program regarding the New London School District's finances. He reviewed what changes have been made over time to get to the point where they are today. The District has reduced their general operating budget by \$3.5 million over the past two school years and have targeted a reduction of \$1 million for the upcoming 2013-2014 budget year. The operating budget totals about \$22 million. With the district budget cuts of approximately \$4.5 million, they have reduced their expenditures by over 20% in three years. Joe presented Governor Walker's state budget proposal and the affect that this budget will have on our local operations. In short, we have revenue limits with a declining enrollment while at the same time the District experiences increasing expenditures. A discussion was held regarding why school vouchers are hurtful for our School District. Several long-term resolutions to the current financial difficulties were talked about. It is likely that the voters in the District will be facing a referendum question in the future in order for the District to stay balanced and continue their current programs. The Committee thanked Joe for the work the School District is doing to benefit our community and our children.
3. The Committee discussed where we currently stand with the development of the downtown river front property. It was noted that Karen Gething had visited with Kent and Dave and had asked to arrange for a special Economic Development Committee meeting to meet with her Developer and Architect regarding their proposal for development of the City river front land. Several dates are available. Chairman Morack will contact Karen and get a date set.
4. Administrator Hager was contacted by Sandy DuFrane and she noted that there was no activity to report. Administrator Hager has also been in touch with Terry Bomier and he continues to make contact with people on his mailing list.
5. Administrator Hager reviewed his monthly report with the Committee.
6. Chairman Morack informed the Committee that the next regular meeting will be June 25th. That meeting is planned to be held at Fleese's Campground with Mark Fleese giving the Committee a tour of their facility.
7. O'Connell/Schirpke to adjourn. Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Kent Hager
City Administrator