



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, March 8, 2018

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: February minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: February Income: \$310.00; Expenses: \$0.00; Balance: \$16,340.62.

Local City Budget Update: re. MacArthur Boulevard

Alderman Joe McMenamin, Ward 7

- \$400M in underfunded city pensions today. Ten years ago, underfunding was at \$100M. Suggested freezing salaries in upper level range or slowing down salary growth to control rising pension costs.
- The City's infrastructure fund is well funded at \$40M. None of the \$40M is available for improvements on MacArthur because it is a state road.
- Cherry Road will get an overlay.
- Both Council members committed to work toward funding boulevard improvement projects when MBA selects its preference from the IDOT Study. (MBA's working group will review the options and develop a proposal.)
- Positive changes: Hy Vee, improvements to The Boulevard Town Homes and new businesses: Pies the Limit, Starcrest Cleaners and Free Press Coffee.
- Luring big box stores as a tool for economic development is over. Suggests community take on beautification projects as way to improve boulevard: adopt blocks, monitor condition of property, contact owner or notify city when improvement needed.
- Supports in-filling older residential parts of the city.

Alderwoman Kristin DiCenso, Ward 6

- City's budget is a disaster. Proposed eliminating an entire department.
- Sponsored and passed Airbnb ordinance imposing same 7% bed tax on the Airbnb occupant that city's hotels and motels pay.
- Need to work with other cities to figure out how to plug the revenue hole caused by online sales and also need to address city's pension problem.
- Will work to find co-sponsors to create a landlord registry. Costs could be phased in.
- Frustrated by lack of city response to residents wishing to buy city-owned vacant properties.
- Ward 6 curb and sidewalk improvements coming.
- MacDonald's property has an interested developer.

Jerome Mayor Mike Lopez

- Sales tax revenue dipped because of online purchasing.
- Iles Avenue needs resurfacing.
- Jerome still waiting after seven months to receive documents from City of Springfield.

Announcements

- Ward 6 Clean-Up, April 14th, 8:30 a.m. sponsored by Alderwoman DiCenso.
- Recent shooting at Third Base Bar.
- Easter Eggcitement, South Side Christian Church, Sat. March 24, 11-1 p.m.
- Local First's shredding event: Saturday, April 21, 10-noon, Bunn Parking Lot, Stevenson Drive. Will accept tires.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary