

CITY OF PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL, 128 SMITH STREET

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Mayor Pohlman called the meeting to order. On the call of the roll the following were present: Jeff Tauscheck, Angie Matzdorf, Diane Gilson, Mike Penkwitz, Dave Herrmann, Greg Hildebrand, John Nelson and John Binder. Also present were: City Administrator/Utilities Manager Tim Blakeslee, Finance Director Chris Russo, Police Chief Ken Ruggles, Library Director Leslie Jochman, Director of Public Works Cathy Austin and City Clerk Anna Voigt.
2. **Approve the Minutes from May 28, 2024:** Motion was made by Tauscheck/Binder to approve the minutes. A unanimous aye vote was cast. Motion carried.
3. **Discussion Regarding Filing of Electric Conventional Rate Case:** Finance Director Russo gave background on the electric conventional rate case for an upcoming presentation from WPPI on July 9 Council meeting. Russo explained if approved by council, this electric rate case will be filed by the PSC for the purpose of updating the electric tariffs and service rules, along with increasing electric rates. The PSC currently has a recommended rate of return of 6.5 percent. Rates have not increased since 2015. Previous to that Electric rate cases were filed every 4 years. All costs related to Substation 5 in the town of Mitchell will not be included in the rate case. Mayor Pohlman asked what the last rate increase was. Russo stated he would get back to him with an answer.
4. **Introduction and Discussion on Future Library Project:** City Administrator/Utilities Manager Blakeslee stated that apart of the 2024 budget included funding for the library to conduct a space needs analysis. The goal, was to include initial concept design options and provide cost estimates for the remodeling and/or expansion of the library at its current location for the next 20 years. Throughout the spring and summer, the Plymouth Library, there selected consultant FEH, and a task force of citizen volunteers, reviewed needed upgrades/updates of the current space and developed initial concepts. Library Director Leslie Jochman did a presentation on the needs of the library, the trends of the library, and the focus of the project. Cole Hensen from FEH presented the outcome of the space needs analysis. He reviewed the 2 favorite concepts of the task force option 7B, a new location on Reed St, and Option F, restructuring Division St. He also presented an alternative option F.1, and option FEH developed as an alternative to option F, this option does not close Division St. but instead expands the library into the alley and road right of way. The state of Wisconsin has grant opportunity for public libraries and community centers with a maximum grant amount of up to \$4.25 million Flexible Facilities Grant. For a project below \$4.25 million, matching funds are not required and applications will receive full points for match funding. Should a project be greater the \$4.25 million the local match/balance of funding must be committed or in hand. The City does not have the funds on hand to commit matching dollars mid-budget cycle for a large-scale project. The application is due July 11. Mayor Pohlman asked a grant application could be submitted without a final design? Blakeslee and Jochman answered there was additional guidance a

grant without having a final design as long as the budget is spelled out, for example study rooms will be x amount. Hensen from FEH clarified what can be accomplished with a grant application that allows to leverage potentially 4.25 million and is there a project if it's beyond that. He explained that a footprint growing to 25-26,000 sq ft is going to be a \$13 million project. He stated that for \$4.25 million you could probably do all the necessary upgrades to the library but not necessarily have an expansion. It would be unlikely to do an expansion with \$4 million. Hildebrand stated he would like to see Division St. left alone. He agrees that the building needs to meet ADA requirements he recommended flipping the expansion to the west of the building or purchasing property surrounding. Hensen stated you need a proof of contract for the grant application. Director Jochman stated that she has reached out to Frontier about purchasing there building and the were not interested. Binder asked if you would be losing all of Division St or if it would just be parking stalls on option F.1. Matzdorf asked how a narrower street could be safe. Hanses stated Division St. would be getting narrower and eliminating parallel parking and add protected curbs and add possible other features to slow traffic down in that area. Nelson stated eliminating parking on the street would make it easier to see a child crossing vs. going in-between cars to cross. Matzdorf asked what the impact would like for taxpayer. Blakeslee explained what Ehlers impact summary stated. Option F, \$13.2 million project with no grant would be \$3,100 over 20 years for an average home. For Option F phase 1 with was 3.3 million would be \$700-\$800 over 20 years for an average home. Council came to the conclusion to apply for the grant under \$4.25 million.

5. **Adjourn:** Motion was made by Tauscheck/Matzdorf to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous aye vote was cast. Motion carried.