

Council Chambers, Municipal Building, Baraboo, Wisconsin
Tuesday, March 2, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Palm called the regular meeting of Council to order.

Roll call was taken.

Council Members Present: Wedekind, Kolb, Sloan, Petty, Ellington, Alt, Robkin, Thurow

Council Members Absent: Plautz

Others Present: Atty. Reitz, Chief Schauf, Clerk Giese, Adm. Geick, members of the press and others.

Moved by Petty, seconded by Wedekind and carried to approve the agenda.

Compliance with the Open Meeting Law was noted.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Alt, seconded by Sloan and carried unanimously to convene as a Committee of the Whole to discuss security concerns at City Hall, office space needs and options to resolve the problems.

MAYOR, ADMINISTRATOR, AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor recapped possible options for building space, recapping a Fact Sheet on Security, space needs and options for the Baraboo City Hall. The security issues involve possible interaction between police clientele and citizens coming into city hall as all use the front entrance. The Police do not have a separate entrance. The overall lack of adequate space is the real problem and there is no central reception area to assist citizens with service or directions. Building modifications such as adding a second entrance is possible, but does nothing to address the lack of overall space needs.

The Council had previously adopted a resolution siting a new public safety building on 2nd and Oak in the vicinity of the Civic Center and the main goal is to retain the City Hall and Police presence in the downtown area. However, other options have been considered including possibly leasing an available facility anywhere within the city, or building a new facility with a combination of public/private funds. It is estimated that rent for just the administrative offices would be approximately \$170,000 per year. The National Guard Armory building on South Boulevard may become available but would require extensive remodeling.

Current and proposed spaces for each of the departments currently in City Hall.

Department	Current Sq Ft	Proposed Sq Ft
Police	10,571	23,650 office + 9,000 garage
Fire	10,850	25,300 office + 12,000 garage
Administration	7,000	13,000
Totals	28,421	61,950 office + 21,000 garage

The Mayor opened the floor for discussion.

Petty explained that space needs have been in the forefront for his 8 years on the Council. There has always been a need to push off capital projects because of tight budgets. We simply need more space and he is inclined to build new space rather than rehab existing facilities. His preference for a site is 2nd Street, next to the civic center. BDAS would be interested in leasing the entire Alma Waite facility if it were vacated by the Police Dept.

Kohn questioned the immediate needs and wondered if part of the basement could be utilized for interactions with police and arrested persons. Schauf stated that he has not closely looked at that but there are pros and cons for every decision made. They have tried to come up with different options for securing the building.

Robkin asked if there is any salvage value in the existing buildings. Geick explained that the property needs to be appraised but that any potential buyer would have the same issues that we have with the different floor heights and interior walls. The Fire Dept main area is bays and offices and several questioned if that area could be remodeled.

Kolb discussed that he is not in favor of obtaining the school administrative building or closing and building across Oak Street.

At \$200 /sq ft, we can afford to build about 12,500 sq ft when considering the \$2,500,000 for available funding next year. The group reviewed the footprint in the civic center area on 2nd street.

Wedekind discussed the building an Administration and Police building, leaving the Fire Dept in the current city hall. The Mayor discussed building the first segment to alleviate space for all depts. Wedekind suggested moving the Admin first to free up space and it is the least costly department to move.

Robkin suggested the fastest way to vacate the property is for administrative offices to relocate into a rented space. The Mayor stated the rent would be around \$180,000/yr and would increase operating costs which has to be included in the levy limit.

Thurow stated that the most critical department to have more space is for the police and agreed that doing a building project in phases would be acceptable.

Petty and others agreed that displaced parking in the downtown will definitely need to be replaced.

Chief Stieve discussed the proposed footprint at the civic center location that included a fire station, explaining that all layouts were reviewed and this was the best layout for drive through apparatus bays.

Geick explained that the City may be able to acquire the National Guard Armory, but the timeline of acquisition is unknown. Wedekind stated that the City would have a hard time converting that to a Fire Department, but a police department would be an easier solution.

Moved by Ellington, seconded by Petty and carried to reconvene into regular session. Petty and others recommended a new building on the Civic Center neighborhood site. All agreed and there was no opposition stated. This item will appear on the next Council agenda for action. The Mayor stated that a building committee will be created and asked anyone with interest in serving to contact him.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Petty, seconded by Kolb, and carried on voice vote, that the meeting adjourn.

Cheryl M. Giese, Clerk-Finance Director