

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2007
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Stein called the Special Planning Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Stein, Council Members Shafer, Hamilton, Maichele, Geshel, Holloway, Antel.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Nier, City Clerk Sharon Baumgard, Karen Gregersen, Joe Hamilton, Stuart Isenhoff, Kelle Toblic, Diane Smith, Dorothy DeWeerd, Ron Kobish, John Frigmanski, Jim Ramey.

Items of Business. Prioritizing goals.

City Manager Nier gave a short review of the strengths and weaknesses that were discussed at the February 26 meeting. Nier expressed that now is time to discuss prioritizing and set goals for 2008. Manager Nier reminded everyone to keep in mind the cuts that the state would be making. She gave a brief report of the Legislative Conference she and Council Member Hamilton attended stating it was announced that there would be a decline, if any, Grants or Bonds available to municipalities.

Manager Nier asked the Committees to offer what they believed to be their priorities. The following ideas were offered:

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| 1. Recruiting Downtown Businesses. | 8 people |
| 2. Sidewalk Connections. | 8 people |
| 3. Business Friendly. | 2 people |
| 4. Market Industrial Park. | 3 people |
| 5. West Superior Street Improvements. | 2 people |
| 6. Facade Program for Downtown Area. | 8 people |
| 7. More Events. | 3 people |
| 8. City Staff, More Involvement with Events,
Businesses, Residents. | 1 person |
| 9. More Communication with Library. | 1 person |
| 10. Interaction with connecting Municipalities. | 1 person |
| 11. More Involvement from Businesses in
Community Event. | 1 person |
| 12. Way-Finding Signs. | 2 people |
| 13. Better Lighting in Downtown Area. | 1 person |
| 14. Sidewalk Connections. | 1 person |
| 15. Central Business District united in mind
Thinking. | 1 person |
| 16. Weed Control in Downtown Area in | 1 person |

Cracks of Sidewalks.

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| 17. Service Organizations more Involved. | 1 person |
| 18. Music in the Downtown Area During Holiday Season. | 2 people |

Manager Nier stated everyone has come up with great goals, but to keep in mind what items would be lead by what leaders, City or Community. She also stated we need to prioritize what the top three goals need to be. After much discussion the top three priorities are as follows:

1. Sidewalk Connections.
2. Facade Program.
3. Recruiting Downtown Businesses.

DISCUSSION:

Council Member Geshel questioned as to how we implement the sidewalk connections goal. Mr. Geshel stated that the subject of connecting sidewalks has been discussed for three years now and nothing has been done. He expressed a need to move ahead on this item. Mr. Geshel stated that Sycamore Street has been brought up for three years, although there are sidewalks on the north side of the street we need to look at this.

Manager Nier explained because of budget restraints last year the city was only able to do sidewalk connection on Meadow Court and some sidewalk repair where needed most. To move ahead with this project we need to first select an area, and second select the method of funding. She asked if Council would like to put this in front of the Budget Committee, assess the homeowner, or set up a 50/50 between homeowner and city. We as a group have to decide if this would make the city more user friendly and safer for our children, next take an aggressive approach to this. It was decided to take this matter in front of the Budget Committee to be budgeted for 2008. Everyone has agreed that the following streets should be earmarked to have the sidewalks connected or placement: Locust, Sycamore, Plum, Hickory, Anderson and Standish Drive.

Manager Nier expressed the need to prioritize what goals would be long term, being two to five years.

The following were selected as long-term goals:

1. West Superior Street Construction.
2. Sidewalks
3. Neighborhood Parks
4. Business Involvement.
5. Enforcement of Ordinances.
6. Youth Concerts and Events.
7. Recreation and Sports Complex.
8. Conforming Signs to maintain the look HyettPalma has designed for the City.
9. Develop Form Base Zoning.

Manager Nier stated that the Committee should be aware that they are taking freedom from businesses by demanding too many conditions. We want to retain the integrity of the Downtown, but not to be so stringent that it would keep out potential businesses. Taking a stand as this, you would be able to control what type of business you would bring into downtown.

Manager Nier thanked everyone for attending and stated she believed we would not have to have another meeting, if everyone was comfortable with the decisions made tonight.

Mayor Stein adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.