



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2018

Welcome: Vice President Julie Dirksen

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

Treasurer's Report: September income: \$816.00 Expenses \$457.95 Balance \$17,529.50

Guest Speaker: Bill McCarty, Springfield Budget Director

Director McCarty stated that October kicks off the budget process. He had a meeting October 10th with the fiscal officers and department directors to give guidance on budget parameters. Departments will submit their budget in November with approval by the City Council in February. The budget takes effect in March.

The current property tax rate in the city of Springfield is \$.9385 which is the same as it was in the 1980's. By comparison, Peoria's tax rate is \$1.56. Were Springfield to have that rate, it would generate \$14.5 million in increased revenue. Springfield sales tax is the City's biggest revenue generator. The biggest expenses are police and fire pension obligations which will be \$22.7 million this year and \$23.6 million next year.

Springfield has a dedicated fund for infrastructure improvements which has more than doubled the annual amount of funds used for infrastructure since 2011. This year's fund total was \$13 million.

The new Use Tax – tax dollars generated from items purchased online are now subject to the sales tax rate of the State where purchasers live – began October 1st and will generate \$300,000 for Springfield. Director McCarty concluded by saying there will be fewer constraints on the budget compared to the 2 previous years.

Local Government

Alderwoman Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso

Acknowledged the budget season has begun. Touched on several pressing issues before the Council: Race Riot Site preservation; decision to locate Sports Hall of Fame in the public library; crimes against people have declined but crimes against property are up; new business on Ash four blocks west of MacArthur which may need a zoning variance.

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin

Joe pointed out yesterday's SJR article about the food truck event on North Grand Ave which acknowledged the many successes of the MBA. Joe had a face-to-face meeting with Mayor Langfelder in which the mayor expressed support for the city taking control of MacArthur Blvd. The mayor is planning several town hall meetings. Joe recapped a presentation he received on the 1% county sales tax referendum. It appears there could be an unintended consequence of creating a shortfall for Springfield District 186 schools.

Jerome Mayor: Michael Lopez

The closure of Shop and Save will occur on November 19th creating a significant loss of tax revenue for Jerome. Famous Liquors on Wabash was recently robbed at gunpoint. Jerome is seeking funds for the Franklin Middle School Walkway.

County Board Member: Lisa Hills

The unincorporated area near SSCC has seen a reduction in crime. A county rural transportation initiative has started. Sangamon County will have a balanced budget for next year. There has been a significant increase in solar farm permits in the county.

Neighborhood Police Office: Mike Badger

There have been several armed robberies on Wabash committed by the same person. Jerome and Springfield police departments are coordinating an effort to capture him. They have video of him. The rash of car burglaries continues. Office Badger reminded everyone to keep their cars locked and garage door openers hidden.

Announcements

Julie reminded everyone of the MBA cleanup of the Boulevard with Franklin Middle School October 20th

She also said that if anyone is interested in serving on the MBA Board, they should contact David Farrell. She offered our thanks to **Pie's the Limit** for being the October coffee sponsor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Loretta Durbin, Secretary

Doug Dougherty MBA Board Member