



City Council 2012-2013 Goals and Priorities

Adopted January 23, 2012

PRIORITY ONE

BUDGET

Due to the projected \$350,000+ FY 2012-13 budget deficit which is expected to increase to more than \$1,000,000 in FY 2013-14 due to declining property assessments and increased retiree expenditures, dealing with this issue is critical. The City will be looking for ways to structurally balance its revenues and expenditures over the long term so that its services and expenses are in line. Every potential avenue to reduce expenditures will be explored. Given that Public Safety comprises 58% of the City's General Fund, the ongoing efforts to seek collaborative solutions with our Grosse Pointe neighbors for creating the most efficient and effective platform to deliver high quality public safety services. Efficiencies and restructuring both in conjunction with the other Grosse Pointes and within the Public Safety Department as well as all other Departments will be examined. Jointly operating dispatch with one or more Grosse Pointes will be pursued, as well as serious study of consolidation of the Grosse's Public Safety Department with Grosse Pointe Park and possibly other Grosse Pointes. Privatization will be explored in Public Services functions where appropriate. The expenses of the retiree medical expense program will be reevaluated to bring costs more in line with the health care costs for active employees. Service levels of all departments will also be examined to ensure that declining resources are allocated to the highest priority public services desired by the citizens. If all reasonable expenditure reductions have been pursued and revenues still fall short of what is needed to preserve services desired by the community, consideration will be given to requesting voter approval of a property tax rate increase.

OTHER PRIORITIES

FOCUS ON THE VILLAGE

A special council meeting will be convened to invite stakeholders to address the council with updates on what is happening in the Village from their perspective and solicit ideas on what next steps the City could take to ensure the continued vitality of the Village. The City will work aggressively to assist with the redevelopment of the building where the former Borders was located. Also, based on some preliminary interest expressed by more than one developer, the City will issue an RFP to solicit proposals for theatre uses on Lot 2, a large surface parking lot owned by the City on north side of Kercheval between Notre Dame and St. Clair. This land was the subject of two previous RFP's several years ago where City selected developers of a mid-rise condo project and then a hotel project were unsuccessful in putting together financing for projects.

UPDATE MASTER PLAN

The last time the City reviewed in detail its Master Plan was 2004. There has been significant economic restructuring that has taken place since then. An updated plan involving extensive public input from residents and other key stakeholders will take place in 2011. Particular attention will be given to future commercial land use on Mack Avenue where existing zoning is patchwork mix of office and commercial complicated by insufficient parking for. As the key central business district for the Grosse Pointes, the success of the goal of the last Master Plan update to broaden and diversify the Village as a place not only to shop but to work, live, play, eat and be entertained will be examined. Ideas for future use of the vacant Sunrise property, now zoned residential, will also be discussed.

MACK AVENUE WATER MAIN/ STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Per the five year capital plan, one of the bigger projects the City has tackled in recent years is planned for this spring: upgrading the Mack Avenue Water Main. This project, to be paid from Water & Sewer funds, is a significant piece of the water system improvement plan. The project will increase water pressure, and ultimately be part of a looped large main once the project's final legs down Washington are completed. Funding of a million dollar streetscape improvement funded largely by a state grant are incorporated into this project. Staff will need to work closely with the Mack Avenue business community throughout the course of this project to minimize the impact of this major construction project.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB/BEAUMONT FACILITY

Neighborhood Club/Beaumont Hospital are constructing a new facility at Waterloo and St. Clair anticipated to open in January 2013. As this project moves forward, the City will need to closely coordinate reconstruction of the adjacent public parking lot with the Neighborhood Club as well as provide regular inspections of the construction. Construction of the new Club and the parking lot must be coordinated to minimize impact on the neighbors as well as with the users of City parking system and the adjacent businesses.

HOSPITAL ZONING DISTRICT

In the City's adopted Master Plan, the City has a goal to establish a Hospital Zoning District where Beaumont Hospital is. Several meetings were held with the hospital last year to start work on creating this Zoning District and remains a priority to conclude this goal from 2010. Clear zoning oversight of the Hospital property that reflects its current and potential use into the future would be a benefit to guide both resident and hospital expectations over the long term and avoids a piecemeal approach to hospital and neighbor related issues.