

**CITY OF WATERLOO COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 136 N. MONROE STREET  
Public Hearing Minutes - Thursday, December 1, 2011**

**A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
FOR THE CITY OF WATERLOO**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.** Mayor Thompson called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Alderpersons present – Forman, Quimby, Springer, Van Holten, Cotting, Abell and Sievert. Absent – none. Others present – Police Chief Tim Thomas, Alyssa Skiba of the Courier, Tammy Krueger of the Watertown Daily Times, a videographer, Laurie Freund, James Kilian, LaVerne Herman, Maureen Giese, Dale Maron, Vincent Maron, Robert Crosby, Jo Govek, Rita Dow, Karen Turley, Linda Norton, Mark Hall, Jenni Hayes, Connie Schiestl, Barb Weihert and Clerk/Treasurer Hansen.
  
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED 2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET. Discussion:** Bill Springer said he opposed removing funding for part-time officers and crossing guards. In reply to a Quimby question, Chief Thomas said he could live with \$5,000 for part-time officers. Forman said the budget recommended by the Finance, Insurance & Personnel Committee raised the levy 3% and moved a portion the Clerk/Treasurer's wages from the General Fund to the Tax Incremental Finance Fund. He said the budget was balanced by raising taxes and cutting spending.

Maureen Giese asked that cuts in Historical Society funding be changed from a zero appropriation to \$1,500. She questioned the use of Impact Fees for the Garman/Knowlton Trailhead Facility project. She said the City Band has free access to a building and her organization pays for heat. Rita Dow echoed Giese's comments. Replying to a Springer question, Giese said the organization was a 501c3 entity.

School Superintendent Connie Schiestl said the process for the School District to fund crossing guards would require each taxing jurisdiction served pass a resolution. She said it was legitimate to pay crossing guards and that due to budget cycle timing differences the district was already done with its budget. In reply to Springer, Schiestl said \$20,000 for discretionary spending for each principle had been reallocated and would not be available to fund crossing guards. Springer spoke in favor of the School District taking on the financial obligation for crossing guards.

Peggy Dovi said Waterloo was a lovely safe and plain town; she opposed cutting and said she would pay more for services. Laura Cotting outlined what various levy increases would amount to for her home. Linda Norton spoke in favor of salary cuts rather than position cuts, referencing her private sector experience. Replying to a Thompson suggestion of a 4.66% increase, Sievert said 4.66% doesn't go far. Robert Crosby spoke in favor of a greater levy increase saying the opportunity is now to do long-term planning and encouraged the Council to look at the long-term. Jenni Hayes said she was willing to pay more to prevent cuts. Laurie Freund said cutting the crossing guards was her concern. Maureen Giese said Marshall raised taxes by 5.7%. Mayor Thompson said he has focused on paying down debt. John Spies said Marshall has done better in the past on state aids and that a comparable home in Marshall pays \$500 less in property taxes.

3. **CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING.** No additional citizens wished to make a statement; the Mayor therefore closed the public hearing at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Attest:

Morton Hansen  
Clerk/Treasurer