

Citizen's First

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City of Monroe Newsletter

June 2009

What's Happening?

By: Mayor Ron Marsh

*By Walking, By Bike, By Train, By Car, By Bus, By Plane.....*All of these are modes of transportation. Each one brings with it a cost. In some cases those costs have escalated. Those increases in cost are passed directly on to you in one form or other.

The City of Monroe is continually reviewing ways to hold those cost increases in check. Maybe the development of a transportation utility is one of our answers?

Let's take a step back in time. In 1996 a survey was completed regarding the City of Monroe's sidewalks. The survey laid out a plan of action, including a dollar amount needed each year. The program was to be completed in (20) twenty years. Thirteen (13) years have passed and we are way behind schedule.

Why, because funding was cut, cost of putting in sidewalks have increased, individuals complained about paying for those improvements in front of their homes, and past Common Council's deleted individuals and projects from the schedules. Most of these reasons apply to all of our transportation problems.

The delay in repairing, maintenance and the replacing of our sidewalks and roadways have led to them continuing to deteriorate and increasing the cost to fix them. Both of which affect all of us.

A transportation utility would just about eliminate all of these reasons listed. It is well worth the effort to see if it is the right fit for the City of Monroe.

There are a number of hurdles that have to be jumped through. But, by taking a slow but sure approach to those issues and by keeping you informed, we will be able to determine if this is the right thing to do for the City of Monroe.

There are entities within our community who are already denouncing the merits of this program. Their judgment on this issue is a little bit premature.

Seeing is not always believing

By: Mayor Ron Marsh

In three recent articles, in the paper, there were statement made about Cheese Days, and a new transportation utility. The information provides to you needs to be expanded upon.

On May 21st the paper stated your Mayor was at a meeting on Wednesday, May 20th, with Chief Kelly and Alderperson Coplien at which the Mayor stated he was in favor of the continuation of Cheese Days. First of all I'm in favor of the continuation of Cheese Days. The problem with the article was that I never made that statement and there was no meeting on Wednesday in regards to Cheese Days. In fact, your Mayor was in Madison talking to your State Senator Erpenbach and Representative Davis regarding changes being proposed which would impact the City of Monroe financially.

There was a presentation made by Christy Cramer of Ruckert-Mielke to the Common Council that took place on May 18th explaining the concept of a transportation utility. That meeting was just an overview, for your Common Council, on how a transportation utility could work.

The View made the following comment on May 19th "though if the city can entertain spending \$40,000 simply to study the outrageous idea of creating a transportation utility". Your truly would be very surprised if the author of that article had taken the time to read the studies done for other communities in Wisconsin and talked with those firms who did the study, talked with any community who already has a transportation utility up and running, studied the pro and cons of such a utility, and/or did a sample test run of such a utility for the City of Monroe.

For anyone to draw a conclusion, which the paper did, on how this transportation utility will affect any segment of our population is premature. That is the sole purpose of having a feasibility study done. That study will provide to your Common Council the information needed to see if they wanted to consider a transportation utility.

Plus, in the View on May 26th the author of the article stated "the city could ask the voters to increase the sales tax ". That might work except the City of Monroe legally cannot impose a sales tax.

Seeing is not always believing (cont.)

By: Mayor Ron Marsh

A second comment in the same article stated “or the city could just decide to fix what they can, and let the rest go”. In theory that may sound like a good approach but in reality it is a disaster. Why? Because as your infrastructure decays the cost of repairs and maintenance increases. Thus, you the citizens of Monroe will pay more.

The proof of the pudding is your 8th and 9th street project. In time alone, not counting the repairs that the city has made, the cost to the city has gone up just for streets, curbs, gutters and sidewalks over \$500,000. Time is money!!

Finally, there has been individuals based on what they had read were strongly against the concept being presented. However, after being really informed about a transportation utility and how the City of Monroe is approaching this concept they had no problems continuing the process.

It is time for any entity which releases information to the general public, to provide them with complete and accurate data. Those entities also should leave there their personal belief at home.

Mayor's Monologue

By: Mayor Ron Marsh

Last month at a meeting, which was non-governmental, there were 25 + individuals in attendance. It was great to see that number of individual's respond to express their thoughts and ideas.

The City of Monroe extends an invitation to attend any of our committee meetings and/or our Common Council meetings. You are always allowed an opportunity to express your thoughts and ideas.

Look forward to seeing you at one of the above meetings.

Rec Score

By: Marge Klinzing

As we approach the middle of June, many programs will begin Monday, June 15th. From Tot Lot to Tennis Leagues, Midget League Baseball to Teenie Tiny Girls Softball to swimming lessons at the Monroe Pool. Our Park and Recreation Department is sure to have something for everyone. For more information on our summer programs, you can download our brochure at www.cityofmonroe.org or contact us at 329-2460.

Beginning June 15th our pool hours will be as follows:

Monday – Friday

10:00am-8:00pm	Wading Pool Open
1:00pm-4:00pm	Public Swim
4:00pm-5:15pm	Swim Team Practice
5:00pm-6:00pm	Lap Swim
6:00pm-8:00pm	Public Swim

Saturday-Sunday

1:00pm-8:00pm	Wading Pool Open
1:00pm-5:00pm	Public Swim
5:00pm-6:00pm	Lap Swim
6:00pm-8:00pm	Public Swim

We also have openings in 10:00am swim lessons for School District of Monroe students. These lessons are held Monday-Friday, June 15-July 2 and/or July 6-24. These lessons cost \$2.00 per student per session. You must provide transportation to and from the pool. For more information on pool hours or lessons, please contact us at 329.2460.

We are also gearing up for the July 4th festivities if you would like to sign up for our July 4th soccer tournaments, adult volleyball or slowpitch tournaments please contact our office at 329-2460. The Soccer Tournament is open to children entering Kindergarten through adults. Each person signs up individually and teams are then formed. Please sign up early to ensure a spot and t-shirt! All proceeds will be go towards Twining Park Improvements.

Are you going somewhere special this summer? Why not check out our discount ticket sales and save \$3 - \$22 per ticket? We have tickets for the following attractions: *Original Ducks, Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park, Pirates Cove Adventure Golf, Chula Vista – Lost Rios Waterpark, Great America & Waterpark, Rick Wilcox Theatre, Upper Dells Boat Tours, Dells Army Ducks, Dells Jet Boats, Milwaukee County Zoo, Noah's Ark, Riverview Park & Waterworld, Wild Thing Jet Boat Rides, Top Secret and NEW this year – WI Dells City Pass!* Tickets are available through **Friday, August 28th**.

Our office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm so stop down and sign up for some fun!

