

## **CITIZEN FORUM MINUTES**

**Monday, December 16th, 5:30-6:30PM**

**A dozen residents gathered at Dino's and there was much discussion on item one!**

### **1) City Council Updates-Special Election-January 28<sup>th</sup>-Treasurer question on the ballot: Should the Treasurer be appointed?**

**A special vote will take place. Voters will decide if we move to a Treasurer appointed by the City Council or keep the position elected. A yes vote will change it to appointed. Mail in ballots can be requested NOW. In-person voting will only take place on January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**2) CPA ballot question results- 66% in favor of reducing from 1.5% to 1%. Voters sent a strong message that they are opposed to increased taxes with the high cost of daily living expenses. The budget that is set in June results in the taxes you pay later.**

### **3) Tax rate to be set soon: Impact of budget**

**The tax rate was set on December 17<sup>th</sup>. While rates decreased (17.46res & 38.54com), an average residential tax bill will increase by \$300.00. The city council did decrease the levy by \$927,778 after much discussion and debate, or the tax bills would have been even higher. A one-time use of the earned interest of the general stabilization funds was used to reduce the current tax burden on property owners.**

**The budget that is set in June results in the taxes you pay later. Pay careful attention to the budget in the spring.**

### **4) Raised crosswalk update**

**The raised crosswalks on Homestead Ave were recently removed due to safety concerns raised after their installation. A review by our current engineer indicated they had been installed in error and did not meet state law – because of the status of the road and that the speed limit is greater than 30mph. I filed an order so that going forward any**

**installation will involve the public and the input of departments so that money will not be wasted in the future. The City Council has approved this change.**

#### **5) Update on schools from Jay Whelihan**

**School Committeeman Jay Whelihan was unable to attend, but provided an update:**

- a) McMahan School had new windows installed. Boiler and interior rehab took place**
- b) Donahue School had new playground equipment installed and interior rehab completed**
- c) The provisional end to state receivership is set for July 2025**
- d) Peck School is on track to open in the fall of 2025. The name will remain William R. Peck Middle School.**

#### **6) Questions:**

**A question was raised about the proposed sports complex. The most recent information is that Wykoff will remain a golf course and the developers are considering a group of properties on Whiting Farms Rd next to the fire station. There are a number of issues being raised and considered regarding this site.**

**A request was made as to the cost of installing and removing the raised crosswalks on Homestead Ave. I will request that information.**

**Submitted by,  
Linda Vacon  
Your Ward 5 City Councilor**

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Linda Vacon

533-6498 or 210-6077