

## Observer Report

City Council

February 22, 2010

Observer: Jan Otwell (from home)

Aldermen Present: All

Meeting Began 8:10 p.m. (Mayor tried to round up aldermen so they could start on time)

Meeting ended: 10:40 p.m.

### Announcements:

- Representative of the Water Reclamation District announced 2/3 mile of sewer line to be replaced during March and April
- City Manager announced Mayor's State of the City speech to be given Friday at Orrington

### Special Order of Business: Capital Improvement Program

Marty Lyons made the presentation. Talked about city debt. Desired projects for coming year have been prioritized in three lists. Marty said \$11.6 million would be needed to do priorities on three lists (down from \$20 million earlier). . . Aldermen discussed the 75K for renovation of the building at 1817 Church to make it salable. Waiting to see results of RFPs to see if anyone has sufficient funds to do the major renovation necessary. . . Aldermen had disagreement about the listing of the priorities, and the City Manager said he could come back to the Council with some suggestions at a special meeting at the end of March. ***Alderman Wilson moved, and it was seconded, to limit spending to the Priority 1 level (although not necessarily with the same projects) of \$7.8 m. Motion carried 9-0.***

**Citizen Comment:** Housing commission member Carol Balkcom gave a report of the task force which included a suggestion to add an alderman to the task force. Ald. Wynne requested staff to add that item to the next Rules Committee agenda.

### City Budget:

Staff passed out copies of revised budget. Ald. Rainey if the changes made at Saturday's budget meeting (to delete the 5% salary cut for managers and add a fifth unpaid holiday) would apply to all employees. City Manager said yes. ***Wynne moved cutting some funding out of training money, got a second, and the motion passed 8-1. Ald. Burrus voted no. Ald. Rainey then moved to reduce six-month funding for branch libraries from 168K to 160K and put the difference in the training budget. Unanimous.***

A couple of the aldermen more recently elected to the Council expressed some displeasure at the budget process. Alderman Wynne said she had gone through 12 budget cycles and the leadership during this one was the best she had seen and she wanted to thank staff.

**Call of the Wards:** Ald. Jean-Baptiste shared some of his experiences during his six days in Haiti last month.

