

CITIZEN'S FORUM for WARD 5 RESIDENTS

About a dozen Ward 5 residents met at Dino's Pizza for pizza & wings today
Monday, January 19th, 2:00-3:00PM

AGENDA

1) Invited Guest: Our new School Committee Member Jens Michaelson-update on his first meetings:

Jens gave a summary of his first two meetings:

Key issues: 1) teacher union negotiations (high teacher turnover is an issue) 2) Hiring a new Superintendent - interviews are taking place on February 9th-Check FB page Jens Michaelson Ward 5 School Committee

2) City Council Updates/Treasurer

Voters approved the appointment of a qualified Treasurer one year ago. It has not been filled yet, as city finances worsened for another year.

3) Budget & Tax discussion

Main points: A. The tax bill you received this month is the result of the budget passed in June.

B. The "growth" of the city is largely due to the increase in home values (increased 8%)

C. Budget growth 2015 Tax Levy Limit 55,837,337 2025 67,816,208 2026-Current Tax Levy 69,741,539. The local budget is growing more rapidly than the income of most residents.

D. Pay attention in May & June when the City Council reviews & votes on the budget. See who votes to save any of your money. Call the at-large councilors with concerns.

4) Update on Elmwood Forest

Citizens sued due concerns about the project. The city law department asked for the case to be dismissed. The judge continued the case until later in the year.

5) Questions, concerns & comments

Concern was raised over large increase of dump trucks-Marion Co. on Southampton Rd & use of loud engine brakes

Request was made to be sure Homestead Road from Westfield Road to Lower Westfield Road is re-paved due to very poor condition.

6) Other issues: as requested-please email me at lindavac@aol.com or text to 210-6077 so I can provide accurate information.

The meeting was closed with a favorite quote from his 1963 "I have a dream speech" in honor of Martin Luther King Day:

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character"

Thanks for attending!

Linda

VISIT www.LindaVacon.org or Linda Vacon Ward 5 City Councilor FB page FOR MORE INFORMATION
Text/Call 210-6077