Report to the Manitowoc Plan Commission

Meeting Date: January 23, 2019

From: April Kroner, Community Development Director

Subject: Discussion Regarding 2019 Meeting Dates and Times

Purpose for Discussion: To provide a more efficient review and approval process for PC transactions in order to better serve citizens, businesses, and developers.

Current Schedule:

Plan Commission: 4th Wednesday of the month

Council: 3rd Monday of the month.

Issue: Any items that are brought forward to Plan Commission and need subsequent approval from the Common Council, sit with no action occurring for at least 2.5 weeks (depending how meetings fall it can be more). This results in delays for applicants, whereby they cannot proceed with their items as quickly.

Example: Items at the January 23rd Plan Commission meeting won't be able to get final approval until the February 18th Council meeting – <u>26 days later</u>. Items at the currently-scheduled February 27th PC meeting won't get Council approval until March 18th, <u>19</u> days later.

Proposed Change: If we amend the day of the month that the Plan Commission meeting is held on, we can bring things through the approval process more swiftly, resulting in better service for the applicants and project schedules. The City's Standing Committees (Finance, Personnel, Public Infrastructure and Public Safety) meet the week or two prior to Council, and therefore any items they take action on are moved to council within 1-2 weeks' time. I recommend that the Plan Commission meeting date be changed to the week or two prior to Council, consistent with the Standing Committees. The Plan Commission often times has important and time-sensitive items for consideration, and it would be beneficial to keep these moving. Potential Meeting dates that don't conflict with standing committee's:

- 1st Thursday of the Month
- 2nd Tuesday of the Month
- 2nd Wednesday of the Month

Example: If PC is held the 1st Thursday of the Month, such as February 7th, items would get final approval at the February 18th Council meeting – only <u>11 days later</u>. If held the 2nd Tuesday of the month (i.e., March 12th) they will get Council approval on March 18th, <u>6 days later</u>.

Items to consider:

- Do any of the proposed dates conflict with other meetings that PC members may have to attend?
- In order to meet the proposed schedule, staff will need to prioritize completion of the Plan Commission minutes to get them prepared in time for the Council agenda.
- Dates for getting public hearing notices to the newspaper and required nearby property owners will need to be done completed sooner to comply with requirements.

These items are able to be addressed easily, but will be an adjustment for staff in terms of planning/prepping for meetings, notices, and new deadlines. However, it is to the benefit of the applicants.

Recommendation: Recommend Changing the Plan Commission meeting date to the week or two prior to Common Council meetings.

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