Present: Brockman, Luskey, Miller, Pape, Peabody, Schueler, Stoeberl.
Absent: Schraeder
Others: City Administrator Barg, City Attorney Wurtz, Public Works Director Drake

Miller called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Barg gave the invocation.

**Public Communications and Comment**
Gary Will of 549 Hope Avenue addressed Council and presented a petition (on behalf of Matt Miller) signed by 148 residents requesting that Council not authorize any further development in the Sandmar Village subdivision, that they not approve any changes in the pond elevation and that they also pursue development of a stormwater management plan for the entire city.

Dean Schiller of 550 Hope Avenue addressed Council, also raising concerns about the Sandmar Village development. Besides echoing the request presented by Will, Schiller challenged the Council to take a more active role in the downstream drainage issue (east of the railroad tracks) and communicate better with adjacent residents.

**Public Hearing – Possible Vacation of Blossom Street (Ransom to Watson Streets)**
A public hearing was held on a request to vacate a one-block section of Blossom Street from Ransom to Watson Streets to help facilitate additional downtown development. Frank Cumberbatch of Boca Grande addressed the Council regarding potential utility easement and relocation issues, but no members of the general public were present to address the Council.

**Resolution – Vacating Blossom Street between Ransom and Watson Streets**
Brockman moved and Luskey seconded a motion to approve the requested vacation subject to resolution of all utility and easement issues. Motion carried 7-0. Barg advised that the resolution won’t be recorded in Fond du Lac County until the concerns have been resolved.

**Ordinance – Establishing standards and guidelines for tree preservation**
After some discussion, mainly focused on the possible impact this ordinance could have on future street reconstruction projects, Stoeberl moved and Schueler seconded a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried 6-1, with Luskey opposed.

**Bids for Public Improvements**
Peabody moved and Luskey seconded a motion to reject all bids for the Newbury Street improvement project. Motion failed 6-1, with Peabody voting in favor.

Stoeberl moved and Schueler seconded a motion to accept the low bid of $415,758.50 from Ripon Lime and Materials for Phase 2 of the Newbury Street reconstruction project under the alternative bid option designed to save the maximum number of trees. Motion carried 5-2, with Luskey and Peabody opposed.

Schueler moved and Stoeberl seconded a motion to accept the low bid $39,975.00 from Novak Excavating for replacement of a 2-inch water line on Thorne Street, and addition of a 6-inch water main on Sunset Drive. Motion carried 7-0.
Luskey moved and Pape seconded a motion to accept the low bid of $23,690.00 from Krause Excavating of Markesan for replacement of the storm system in the Seward Street parking lot. Motion carried 7-0 (Funding for this project will be through TIF District #11.)

Luskey moved and Schueler seconded a motion to accept the low bid of $11,865.00 from Novak Excavating for replacement of sewage pumps in the 4-plex at Murray Park. Motion carried 7-0.

**Plan Commission Minutes (February 17th) and 1 action item**
Considerable discussion occurred regarding a request by Boca Grande for the city to release its access easement behind Roadhouse which allows traffic to leave the parking lot and enter onto Jackson Street. Council members raised questions and concerns on drainage and how Boca’s proposed improvements will fit into the entire parking lot (garbage collection etc.)

Luskey moved and Schueler seconded a motion to approve the February 17th Plan Commission minutes, and to agree to release the access easement behind Roadhouse subject to submission and approval by the public works director of a stormwater management plan for the affected area. Motion carried 7-0. Council also asked that there be follow up discussion with Boca, the City and the property and business owners of that block on the future development and layout of the parking lot.

**Park and Recreation Committee minutes (January 27th) and 2 action items**
After some discussion, during which it was clarified that the exact route is still in question, and that the City is not committing to any funding at this time, Brockman moved and Peabody seconded a motion to approve the Park & Recreation Committee minutes of January 27th, and authorize the city administrator to send a letter to the Green Lake Bike Committee expressing the City’s support for construction of a 10 foot wide bicycle path on the south side of highway 23 between Ripon and Green Lake in conjunction with the State of Wisconsin’s planned upgrade of this road in approximately 2013. Motion carried 7-0.

Brockman moved and Luskey seconded a motion to allow Ripon Little League to make several improvements to the ball fields and adjacent areas in Murray Park, subject to the review and approval of these improvements by the public works director. Motion carried 7-0.

**Project updates and staff reports**
After reviewing a memo from Public Works Director Drake, Luskey moved and Brockman seconded a motion to authorize city staff to pursue funding through Alliant Energy’s “shared savings” program for conversion of traffic signal lights from incandescent to L.E.D. (The expected $2,300 cost should be recouped within about 3 years from energy savings.) Motion carried 7-0.

A brief discussion occurred on a memo from Drake on possible changes to the city’s bulk waste pick-up policy. Staff was asked to schedule this as a potential action item for a future Council meeting.

Barg advised that letters were sent to property owners with signs for businesses no longer in operation, requiring these to be removed within 45 days. He also noted there will be a public hearing at the March 17th Plan Commission meeting on an ordinance to prohibit warehousing in B-1 and B-2 zoning districts.

A brief discussion occurred on the status of dilapidated and deteriorating properties across the city and Barg was asked to give an update on this issue at the March 9th Council meeting.

**Mayor’s communication and appointments - None**

**Agenda items for future council meetings**
No items were suggested other than those mentioned under project updates and staff reports.
With no further business before the Council in open session, Pape moved and Brockman seconded a motion to adjourn to closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) “Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session”

RE: Request for reduction to a personal property tax account

Adjourn to closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility”

RE: Possible change to an employee’s job title and compensation

Motion carried 7-0. Miller declared the meeting adjourned to closed session at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Barg, City Administrator