
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

December 11, 2007

Bill Arnold
(414) 286-3285

Final Common Council Meeting Of 2007 Brings Water Talks, River Developments

The Milwaukee Common Council today approved a resolution directing city officials to begin discussions and negotiations related to supplying water to New Berlin. In November, the Council passed a resolution that Milwaukee will not sign final agreements relating to the sale of water to communities outside the Great Lakes basin until all eight state legislatures in the Council of Great Lakes and two Canadian provinces ratify the compact protecting the region.

The Council also approved a Public Works Committee recommendation calling for a more strategic approach to the Wisconsin State Department of Transportation's funding of some of its major projects affecting Milwaukee. The resolution calls for a downsizing of the I-94 interstate project from eight lanes to six from the Mitchell Interchange to the Illinois state line. The resolution further asks for a collaborative approach and simultaneous funding of high-speed rail, light rail and the expansion and reconstruction of I-94.

In development-related news, the Council approved the sale of a city-owned vacant lot at 1027 N. Edison St. for a mixed-use development plan in the 4th Aldermanic District. According to the project outline, the former city employee parking lot will contain a restaurant on the first floor, a banquet hall on the second floor, office condominiums on the third floor and residential condominiums on floors four through eight.

-More-

Final Meeting/ADD ONE

The building will contain many “sustainable” building concepts, such as a green roof and rain garden. The portion of the property to the north of the Highland Avenue pedestrian bridge will remain an open public green space.

In other actions today:

+ The Council approved an ordinance to raise stiff penalties for the sale of alcohol without proper licenses. The ordinance heavily impacts large house parties often hosted by college students. The ordinance specifies a February 1, 2008 implementation so local universities and colleges can inform their student population of the fine increases.

+ Aldermen passed a resolution directing the City Attorney to sign onto an amicus brief related to a Washington, D.C. Supreme Court case involving questions of home rule and gun possession.

+ Aldermen passed a resolution directing the Office of Environmental Sustainability to investigate the feasibility of city financing for solar panel installations and energy efficiency improvements made by homeowners.

The next regular meeting of the Milwaukee Common Council will be January 15, 2008.