

Memo

To: Green Bay City Clerk Kris Teske
From: Mayor James J. Schmitt
cc: file
Date: December 27, 2016
Re: Veto

Under the provisions of Wis Stat § 62.09(8)(c) I am returning the Common Council's action on December 20, 2016 "To advance to Common Council for consideration with possible action, the recommendation to accept bid and use bonding for funding option for the construction of Colburn Pool" to the City Clerk and filing my objections. This constitutes a veto of this action.

While my administration has long supported health and recreation through a strong parks program, I feel the additional bonding, along with the additional burden to the taxpayer, is not warranted. I stand committed to a \$3.5M aquatic facility to support the Colburn families and neighborhood. The recent council vote to spend taxpayer money for an Olympic-sized specialty pool is not necessary for the vitality of the neighborhood or the City of Green Bay. I have given this issue great thought, consideration and research, and for the following objections, I am issuing a veto of an estimated additional \$2.2M bond:

1. This specialty pool will end up costing \$11.2M.
2. A 50 meter outdoor pool is for a small segment of swim teams in our area. High school and college teams compete in 25 meter indoor pools, and our community has several of those.
3. A 50 meter pool is supposed to serve the region, and yet, the region, namely the county and other municipalities, aren't participating in the funding. Members of city council promised they would seek this cooperative funding. This has not been fulfilled.
4. When the 50 meter pool was designed, there were no regional outdoor pools that size. Appleton is renovating Erb Park which has a 50 meter pool. However, Green Bay continues to support parks and recreation at \$80.3 per person versus Appleton's \$47.95 per person.
5. Increased taxes not only for construction costs in excess of \$2.2M, but also an additional \$136,000 a year in operating losses above and beyond what the normal pool operation costs are. Therefore incurring additional burden to the Green Bay taxpayer.
6. The expenses for this pool will delay other Park projects that are needed and serve a large number of Green Bay residents (upgrades of Arnie Wolff and Muir Park fields, ADA upgrades for 10 playgrounds throughout the city, and trail improvements).
7. The council failed to open the floor to hear from interested persons at the 12/20/16 meeting, even though our general practice is to listen not only to residents who agree, but also to residents who disagree.

I, therefore, return to you the aforementioned action as vetoed.



James J. Schmitt, Mayor