

Important business often moves at a snail's pace in La Crosse City Hall...unless there's some urgency to the issue, such as whether to close a branch of the city library.

When a proposed shut down of the South Branch was avoided this fall, Mayor Tim Kabat announced that he would appoint a task force to look at ways of keeping the building open in future years. Library board president Tom Sleik worries that the mayor is taking too long to put together such a task force, and city council approval of appointments normally takes a month or two. Sleik believes the library committee would not be able to begin work until March, and the library has promised to start public hearings on the 2015 budget next June.