

## COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

5:15pm

Ladysmith Council Chambers

**Members Present:** Mayor Robert Grotzinger, Nathan Johnson, Michael Hraban, Steven Weiss, Al Hraban, John Hoover. **Absent:** Richard Ostenso, Al Christianson.

**Others Present:** Sara Nelson, Doug Parker, Kurt Gorseger, Luke Klink, Alan Christianson, John Pohlman II, John Pohlman III, Terry Carter, Ray Carlson, Chief Kevin Julien, Chief Kyle Gibbs, Officer Douglas Fisher.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Grotzinger called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

**Roll Call:** Clerk Nelson took roll call, and a quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Nathan Johnson.

**Minutes and Agenda:** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson, to approve the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, council minutes along with this evening's agenda. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

### **Introduction of Guest, Public Hearings, Comments:**

#### **Recognition of Officer Douglas Fisher – 30 years of service with the Ladysmith Police**

**Department.** Chief Kevin Julien recognized Officer Douglas Fisher for his 30-year career and dedication at the Ladysmith Police Department which began in 1993. Officer Douglas Fisher has spent his entire career at the Ladysmith Police Department. During his career, he has worked for four (4) Chiefs and has been responsible for training many of the new officers, Chief Kevin Julien included. Officer Douglas Fisher has successfully been a part of the reimplementation program of the SR position at the Ladysmith School in 2022. Chief Kevin Julien presented Officer Douglas Fisher with a Glass Shield Award for his 30 years of service at the Ladysmith Police Department. Officer Douglas Fisher stated that it has been an honor for the last 30 years to serve this community. Officer Douglas Fisher stated that the most rewarding part of his career has been watching the kids he came across early in his career grow to be successful in the community.

**Resolution #2024-02** – Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson to adopt Resolution #2024-02 Authorizing sidewalk, curb & gutter replacement and levying special assessments against benefitted property. Motion passed by roll call vote. 5-yes. 0-no. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes.

Ray Carlson reported that he has been working to create a history of the rail display.

**District One – R. Ostenso:** Absent. Admin Christianson reported the Winter Market will be held on the first Saturday of every month from January to May inside the Rusk County Fairgrounds Senior/Youth Center.

**District Two – N. Johnson:** Nothing to report.

**District Three – M. Hraban:**

**Rusk County Animal Shelter 2023 Report:** M. Hraban reviewed the report and thought it was important for the council and community members to see it and pointed out how busy they are at the animal shelter for one person and noted they have a hard time staffing the building.

**District Four – A. Christianson:** Absent. Admin Christianson reported that there will likely be a Community Development/Property Committee meeting this week to review final bids for the new connections project.

**District Five – S. Weiss:** S. Weiss wanted to touch base regarding the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter’s request for financial assistance that was discussed last meeting. S. Weiss would like to see the City of Ladysmith fulfill that request.

**District Six – A. Hraban:** Nothing to report.

**District Seven – J. Hoover:** Nothing to report.

**Police and Fire Report:** Chief Kevin Julien reported that the annual fundraiser held at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant will be held on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Typically, they use these funds geared toward officer safety issues. Chief Kevin Julien would like to see future funds used for an Employee Assistance Program, since they are no longer offered this through Rusk County. It would provide counseling services for officers or the ability to have a professional come in during a crisis situation and provide support.

**Public Works Report:**

**Public Hearing for special assessments on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:15pm regarding the Miner Ave project.** Informational item.

**Amendment #2:** DPW Gorsegner reported that due to the contractor taking more time than anticipated, they therefore were also on the project longer. This could be addressed with the contractor when they present their final payout. The reason for the addendum to the contract is it now becomes a reimbursable expense through the DNR funding.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson to approve Amendment #2 to Morgan & Parmley’s Engineering Letter of Agreement for the W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street N project. Motion passed by roll call vote. 5-yes. 0-no. M. Hraban-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes.

DPW Gorsegner reported that there was a citizen’s request to include a bike lane on the Highway 8 repave project from the bottom of the bridge heading east. He did forward that to

the DOT to see if it could even be considered this late in the design process. After speaking with the engineers, they do think that there would be enough room to accomplish this. As more information becomes available, council will be updated. It is very preliminary, but they are working through the math to see if it is possible.

**Administrator's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Attorney's Report:** Nothing to report.

**License and Permits:**

Motion by N. Johnson, seconded by A. Hraban to approve A. Bauerfiled Chicken Keeping Permit renewal. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson to approve operator license for B. Tulpan pending police department approval. Motion passed with voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

**Mayor's Forum:**

**Northwest Regional Planning Agreement:** Admin Christianson reported that this relates to the housing program that has been here for more than 30 years. Motion by N. Johnson, seconded by A. Hraban to approve the Agreement with Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Motion passed by roll call vote. 5-yes. 0-no. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes.

Mayor Grotzinger reported that he was invited to the Governor's State of the State address tomorrow Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, and it was his intention to attend and represent the City of Ladysmith.

**Closed Session:** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson to go into closed session under authority granted in Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to-wit: to discuss sale and/or developer agreement for commercial property and/or industrial property with possible action. Motion passed by roll call vote. 5-yes. 0-no. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. S. Weiss-yes.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson, to return to open session. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Clerk Nelson announced that during the closed session, the council agreed to enter into negotiations and pursue proposed purchase agreements pertaining to the sale of commercial properties.

**Adjourn:** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson to adjourn at 6:05pm. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Nelson, City Clerk