

# COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 5:15pm

Ladysmith Council Chambers

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

**Others Present:** Alan Christianson, Sara Nelson, Doug Parker, Kurt Gorseger, Luke Klink, John Pohlman II, John Pohlman III, Terry Carter, Chief Kevin Julien, Leroy Opsal, Ray Carlson, Greg Wagner, Sharon Reynolds, Pete Mincoff, Judy Opsal and Erin Webster.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

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

**Leroy Opsal to address concerns regarding properties throughout the City.** Leory Opsal addressed the council regarding various properties throughout Ladysmith that have an accumulation of trash and vehicles. A. Christianson stated that it would be a good time to review the current ordinances regarding these issues with the City Attorney and have him report back to the council at the next meeting.

Sharon Reynolds addressed the council acknowledging all of the work done throughout the City in an effort to improve the appearance of town. S. Reynolds stated that she wished more was being done to tackle properties with garbage accumulation.

Pete Mincoff addressed the council and stated that he knows that these issues can be fixed because when he experienced this in his neighborhood, it was eventually resolved.

Judy Opsal addressed the council stating that as a former executive director of the Ladysmith Housing Authority, these issues can be correctly addressed when landlords also play an active role.

Chief Kevin Julien stated that the City does make an active effort at addressing problem properties. Chief Julien stated that he would be sending out a letter to the discussed property to gain compliance.

Gregory Wagner requested a copy of all current ordinances in printed form.

Erin Webster introduced herself as the new director of the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter. Erin expressed the need to have emergency funds for the shelter when their shelters are full. In 2023 they helped place roughly 50-60 adults and 10-15 children. Erin Webster reported that 1/3

of the funding comes from State and Federal grants the remaining 2/3 comes from private donors, Churches, community groups, businesses and small grants.

**District One – R. Ostenso:** Absent.

**District Two – N. Johnson:** N. Johnson reported there is a Library board meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5 p.m.

**District Three – M. Hraban:** M. Hraban reported there is a Joint Animal Board meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

**District Four – A. Christianson:** Nothing to report.

**District Five – S. Weiss:**

**Possible action to donate \$5,000 to the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter:** A. Christianson questioned the City's ability to donate to the shelter legally.

A. Christianson motioned to make a one-time donation of \$5,000 to the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter using ARPA funds providing the City Atty concludes that doing so does not violate any known City or State codes prior to donations; seconded by S. Weiss. Motion passed by roll call vote. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-no. 5-yes. 1-no.

**District Six – A. Hraban:**

**Possible action on recommendation from Public Works Committee regarding Blvd Trees/Miner Ave change order.** DPW Gorsegner reported that there are possible grant funding through the State of Wisconsin that would be pursued to possibly cover some of the cost. Motion by A. Hraban to approve change order of \$25,545.00 for Blvd trees located on Miner Ave project, seconded by A. Christianson. Motion passed by roll call vote. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Possible action on recommendation from the Public Works Committee regarding East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street reconstruction low bid.** DPW Gorsegner reported that they received a total of four (4) bids, the lowest received was from Haas Sons. Motion by A. Hraban to approve low bid from Haas Sons for \$197,948.80 for East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Reconstruction; seconded by A. Christianson. Motion passed by roll call vote. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**District Seven – J. Hoover:** J. Hoover reported that they discussed the schedule, routes and availability in the recent Transit meeting. Their goal is making more people aware of public transportation available to everyone in the area.

**Police and Fire Report:** Chief Kevin Julien wanted to publicly thank everyone that supported them during the recent fundraiser at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant. The Ladysmith Family Restaurant raised over \$12,000 in total for the local emergency services. The Ladysmith Police

Department received \$4,200 that they will use towards officer safety. Chief Kevin Julien also reported the department will have two (2) vacancies to fill in the upcoming year. After application deadlines he received zero qualified applicants; he does have applicants that would need to be sent through the academy via a sponsorship from the City of Ladysmith. Chief Julien reported that at a recent conference many departments reported problems in receiving qualified applicants for their open positions.

**Public Works Report:** Nothing further to report.

**Administrator's Report:** Admn Christinson reported that the new Connections building is coming along, electricians have been there and the HVAC is nearly completed and general contractors will be working in the building starting in the next few weeks. The old Elementary School project has also had some progress. The concrete cutting on the lower level for the water and sewer lines is basically done. Admn. Christianson invited the council & newspaper to take a tour of either location if they were interested.

**Attorney's Report:** Absent.

**License and Permits:**

Motion by N. Johnson to approve chicken keeping permit renewal for A. Neby; seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Mayor's Forum:**

Mayor Grotzinger recognized the passing of former public works director William Christianson. Mayor Grotzinger offered his condolences to the Christianson family.

Mayor Grotzinger noted that there was a vandalism incident at the old elementary school and thanked the Police department for their fast action.

Mayor Grotzinger reported that he attended the grand opening of What's Brewing at JT's, a new business located in the City.

**Closed Session:** Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to go into Closed Session under authority granted in S. 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats. 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 consider modification or termination of a sublease with Ladysmith Community Industrial Development Corp; motion passed by roll call vote. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to come out of closed session. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Mayor Grotzinger reported that the council took action to terminate the sublease with the Industrial Development Corporation for the former Xcel Energy property lease space.

**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) Wis. Stats. 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 and industrial property with possible action; motion passed by roll call vote. A. Hraban-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to come out of closed session. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Major Grotzinger reported there was no reportable action taken.

**Adjourn:** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Nelson, City Clerk