

**ORGANIZATIONAL COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF
THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024

5:15pm

Ladysmith Fire Hall

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

Others Present: Admn. A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, D. Parker, P. Rowe, S. Nelson, Terry Carter, Luke Klink, Missy Mikinia.

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

Administration of Oath of Office. Mayor Robert Grotzinger asked that the newly elected council members take their Oath of Office, specifically, Dist#2 Nathan Johnson, Dist#4 Al Christianson, Dist#6 Randy Lovely and Mayor Robert Grotzinger, and they were sworn into their new positions.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mr. Johnson.

Agenda: N. Johnson noted that under District 2, should read Review and possible approval of request for community garden on City owned lot EAST of O.J. Falge Park. Motion by M. Hraban; second by N. Johnson to approve this evening's agenda with correction. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Election of Council President. Mayor Grotzinger called for nominations to serve as the Council President. Nathan Johnson nominated Al Christianson Sr. to serve as Council President. Mayor Grotzinger called for additional nominations three times. Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to elect Al Christianson Sr. as Council President. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Introduction of Guest, Public Hearings, Comments:

Missy Mikina an AMERICORPS member from Marshfield Clinic addressed the Council regarding a community garden and its benefits. This proposal comes from the Extension Office through the Marshfield Clinic and the Rusk County Community Garden Committee. They would like to utilize the property located East of O.J. Falge Park to build a community garden. They currently have a shed, supplies to make garden beds, fencing and soil; just need a location. They would be ready to begin work as soon as May 1st, 2024. Community members could rent a garden plot for the summer, with a possible grant becoming available so garden plots could be used at no charge to residents. One plot would be used to produce vegetables that would be donated to organizations like the Rusk County Lighthouse. Mayor Grotzinger asked about how community would water plants as water is not available at this location. Missy advised that water could be brought in if needed. Mayor Grotzinger spoke in favor of having a community garden. Missy advised that in her current position it would be her role to make sure the community garden runs smoothly. R. Lovely inquired about how many plots would be available. Missy reported they would begin with roughly six (6), but they have materials for more. J. Hoover spoke in favor of the project.

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Judge T. Carter wanted to recognize Kathy Vacho and Barefoot Painters. Over the weekend she helped to facilitate a vandalism cleanup at the dugouts at Christman Field. Judge Carter reported that Kathy Vacho is a huge asset to the community and did a great job with the teens and acts as a strong advocate for the youth. He noted that she did a wonderful job and deserves thanks. Mayor Grotzinger noted he read her post online and noted it was a very positive outlook on the situation.

District One – R. Ostenso: Nothing to report.

District Two – N. Johnson:

Review and possible approval of request for community garden on City owned lot East of O.J. Falge Park. R. Lovely inquired about any City liability with the community garden on this property. Admn Christianson noted the City carries a recreational immunity policy. J. Hoover questioned length of approval. Admn Christianson reported that he would make a draft to include details of responsibility, care and terms of agreement. Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to approve request for community garden on City owned lot East of O.J. Falge Park. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

District Three – M. Hraban: M. Hraban reported there is an Animal Control Board meeting on April 18th, 2024.

District Four – A. Christianson: Nothing to Report.

District Five – S. Weiss: Absent.

District Six – R. Lovely: Nothing to Report. Mayor Grotzinger welcomed him onto the Council.

District Seven – J. Hoover: J. Hoover reported that the Veteran's Pavilion is ready for cabinets.

Police and Fire Report: Absent.

Public Works Report: DPW Gorseigner invited all interested council members (new and existing) to schedule a tour of the City's Public Work's infrastructure, well houses and waste water treatment plant so there is an understanding of what Public Work's crews maintain and operate on a daily basis.

Administrator's Report: Admn Christianson handed out an Outside Activities Disclosure Form that needs to be filled out, signed and returned to him. Admn Christianson also provided photos of the new banners that will be placed on the existing billboards. They will be going up within the next couple of weeks as time allows.

Attorney's Report: Nothing to report.

License and Permits:

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Ostenso to approve Operator License for R. Turner – Circle K – pending PD approval. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to approve Firework's Seller Permit for Flambeau Fireworks located at Ladysmith Ace Hardware. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by R. Ostenso; seconded by J. Hoover to approve Permit to Keep Chickens for J. Sanderson pending

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coop location approval. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Mayor's Forum: Mayor Grotzinger presented his appointments to various commissions, boards, council committees and City offices for the 2024-2025 session. Motion by A. Christianson, seconded by R. Osteno, to approve the Mayor's appointments to various commissions, boards, Council committees and City offices. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes, 0-no.

Closed Session. Motion by M. 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 purchase, sale, trade or lease of various industrial properties and at what prices, and possible action thereon Motion passed by roll call vote. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. R. Ostenson-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

Adjourn: Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Osteno to adjourn at 5:58pm. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Nelson, City Clerk