

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
January 25, 2016 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

**Roll Call.** Members present: K. Brown, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Absent: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, M. Reynolds.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson, T. DuSell, A. Lobermeier, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker, G. Pederson, T. Van de Voort.

**Call to Order:**

Council President Brown called the meeting to order and served as chair.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mrs. Stoneberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 Council meeting.

**Agenda:**

Motion was made by Platteter, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda.

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Log Haulers Terry DuSell and Tate Van De Voort appeared to ask the Council's permission to use either Pederson Ave. alone or Pederson and W. 5<sup>th</sup> to exit the rail yard located east of Highway 27 N. off Clark and Garfield Avenues. The latter two streets don't work well for exiting as they are located somewhat near the center of loading operations. It was noted that the turn onto Pederson is made on gravel just north of the street, leaving a potentially straight passage, which should eliminate turning damage. Backing 45-60 semis daily in this loading area where log piles and tracks limit usable space is difficult at best. Long waits are common owing to congestion. Semi entry into the yard is typically onto a railroad service road that parallels the track at the north rail crossing. Mr. DuSell acknowledged the presence of children along Pederson, but stated that truck traffic is heaviest this time of year when children tend not to be present, and generally at 15 m.p.h or less. Mr. DuSell also stated, in response to a question, that unloaded weights of trucks using the yard are in the 38-40,000 lb. range and that exit onto Pederson would be by empty trucks only. Mr. DuSell and Mr. Van de Voort also provided examples of the positive impact log haulers on the community in the form of fuel, oil, truck parts and food purchases.

Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to slate a public hearing on an ordinance revision to allow use of these streets for this purpose.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

Motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Pearson to adopt Resolution #2016-01 ordering the repair or replacement of selected sidewalk, curb and gutter. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to adopt Resolution #2016-02 declaring intent to exercise special assessment police powers under Sec. 66.073 Wis. Stats. and to accept the report of the DPW on planned 2016 sidewalk, curb and gutter installation.

Motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Stoneberg to adopt Resolution #2016-03 continuing City support of the Ladysmith Main Street program for three more years as a cost to TIFD #8. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

**District and Committee Reports:**

**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

**District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:**

Mr. Morgan and Mr. Carlson provided an overview of rail display work planned this year. Morgan then made a motion, which was seconded by Stoneberg to set aside \$9,000 from TIFD #9 for 2016 work on the visitor center rail display. Adm. Christianson added that one item not included in the amount requested is painting of silhouettes on the windows of the second and third rail cars. It is believed that using backlit translucent acrylic panels mounted inside the windows will facilitate this. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Brown-yes. Motion carried.

**District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban was absent.

**District Four, Mr. K. Brown:**

Mr. Brown reported that he attended the Chamber of Commerce's recent banquet and is impressed by the extent of that organization's membership.

Mr. Brown questioned why the warning siren mounted by the animal shelter has gone off for no reason twice in the past week. Chief Lobermeier reported that he has responded to multiple questions on that subject. He went on to say that the sirens have gone off for unknown reasons when pagers have been activated by Rusk County dispatch. Rassbach Communications has been contacted to determine the cause and to correct it.

**District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:**

Mrs. Stoneberg inquired as to the status of installing street lights requested for Eagle Ct. Adm. Christianson replied that the last time he spoke with an Xcel representative, a couple of weeks ago, he was told needed equipment has been slow in arriving.

**District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:**

In Mr. Hraban's absence, Mr. Morgan indicated he would deal with recommendations made at the January 18/19 Public Works Committee meeting.

Mr. Morgan made a motion, which was seconded by Brown to authorize Morgan & Parmely to continue planning the Summit Ave. street work as a reconstruction rather than just a resurfacing project provided, however, that every effort is made to extend storm sewer serving Summit Ave. north along Hwy. 27. Roll call vote: Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

A question was raised about the cost of a new end loader mounted snow blower. Mr. Morgan indicated, in response, that the fan operated type of unit the PW Committee feels is best for our needs costs about \$100,000, whereas a larger one with an auger type intake is about \$130,000. He then described the main difference between the two styles. Mr. Morgan then made a motion, which was seconded by Brown and carried by voice vote, to authorize preparation of a new snow blower financing plan.

It was reported that there is a snow blower at Phillips of the type Public Works Committee members are interested in, such that they intend to travel there to view it and ask operators about their experience with it. Mrs. Pearson asked that Robert Barna or another crew member be invited to go along. All agreed on that.

Mr. Brown made a motion which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to approve seeking a Proposal to rebuild several storm and sanitary manholes using recently refined lining technology. While indicating support for this method of manhole replacement, Mr. Morgan noted concern that this procedure doesn't reveal the condition of piping coming into involved manholes. Mr. Brown replied that lining faulty piping may be the solution.

Mr. Morgan also made a motion to authorize sale of the end loader mounted wing plow, noting that while a previous employee put it to good use that it is now removed and sitting, not doing the City any good. He suggested that the wing plow be left on for the season, if it is kept, and that adding weight on the wheels would make the loader easier to handle. Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Stoneberg and Mr. Brown all noted there may be a time the City needs the wing and asked that a vote to sell it be deferred until the salesman who sold it provides an estimate of what the City should expect to get from selling it.

Mr. Carlson noted that DNR may give preference to assistance requests that involve cooperating private organizations. He then asked that references in minutes to "Corbett Lake" refer instead to "CLARA", an acronym for the Corbett Lake Area Restoration Association. He also asked that a timeline Jerry Carow developed for undertaking lake activities be reviewed at the next meeting.

**District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:**

Mrs. Pearson called attention to the fundraiser being held January 26<sup>th</sup> in support of local police and emergency services.

It was noted that a Community Development Committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:**

Chief Lobermeier advised that, although calls were down slightly in 2015, it can be misleading in that a single call may generate several actions. He also noted about 200 hours less of overtime were paid in 2015 due in part to he and the Lieutenant covering shifts.

Mrs. Stoneberg asked if LPD would have interest in a new canine unit if a donation were sufficient to fund it. Chief Lobermeier responded that the City currently has use of the County's unit in exchange for some support provided from previous donations. While it could be beneficial for the City to have its own, he would need to see if any of our current officers would be interested in becoming a handler.

**Public Works Dept. Report, Mr. K. Gorseger:**

Asst. DPW Parker reported in-main water temperatures are about 45-46 degrees.

**Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:**

Adm. Christianson advised that it appears another free standing 40' section could be added to the military mural at its current location, that would mean 20 more images. An option is to relocate the Historic Pioneers mural to Miner Park or another site and install a military mural on the east side of the former True Value, which would better use the size of that space. Mr. Clark is amenable to this change if the City will assist with snow removal on the north/alley end of the building. There is a streetlight across E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., which will provide some illumination for now. This will avoid construction of a free standing frame at the current location, at an estimated cost of \$2,500. If we try to meet the goal of this project being self supporting, covering the cost of the frame will increase charges to applicants by 50%. Yet another option is to pursue both given that interest has been expressed in 18 more images without a new ad having been run. And some who have relatives on the current mural might want to see additional relatives on that same mural.

Mr. Kenyon suggested another option would be to put another free standing mural along the side of the City's parking lot east of the Post Office.



Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Pearson to put an ad in the Ladysmith News noting plans to make additional military mural spaces available at \$300 per image, and to pursue both the Clark building mural location and the mural extension at the current location. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

It was suggested that, if there is general interest in additional murals, the subject will be taken up by the Community Development Committee at its upcoming meeting.

Those present were asked if they had any further thoughts on the fire tower located on City owned land. The sentiment still seems to be to retain it as a landmark, but to keep the ladder until windows can be replaced.

Regarding an agenda item to remove curb and gutter and enlarge the parking lot across the street from the Fritz Ave. plant it was noted that the Joint Management Committee should consider how the estimated cost should be paid for; whether by Rusk County, or by the private business that made the request.

It was reported that the property owners at 714 Sabin Ave. W. asked that the Council be made aware that they want to construct a garage along the side street (E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.), but that the zoning code prevents it from being as close as desired to the street. [The preference is for a 12' setback, while the code requires 22.5'. Maybe a committee wants to look at it.]

It was reported that Rusk County approved year one of a three year commitment to cover one third of the \$11,000 cost of Discover Wisconsin's Flambeau River project and plans to do the next two years as well, although from a different funding source. For the City to cover a similar amount of \$3,666 would be \$1,222 for 2017-2019, which could come from The Mining Fund. Adm. Christianson advised that he has asked Discover Wisconsin to provide a quote to do add-on plow museum video with Mr. Tomasovich for both documentary and promotional purposes.

Adm. Christianson asked if there is interest in installing a cabinet in City Hall to display items of historic interest. Much like that in the entry to the fire hall. B J Wood could build it for \$682. It could, perhaps, be mounted east of the Lady Smith cameo in the Council Chamber. He showed a copy of the City's Charter and a "dip needle" used to find curb stops as examples of items that could be displayed.

**Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:**

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:**

Mayor Reynolds was absent.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to grant tavern operator's licenses to Catherine Frankenstein for Ladysmith Hotel and Suites; to Briana Turner for Holiday; and, to Kathryn Budrecki for Dollar General, contingent upon LPD approval.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Stoneberg, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

**Recorded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Christianson  
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

**Publication:**

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