

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

January 26, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Altmann, K. Brown, A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Reynolds, J. West.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, A. Lobermeier, D. Rubow.

Call to Order:

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order and served as chair.

Swearing In/Seating:

Mayor Reynolds asked approval of his appointment of Jennifer Pearson to fill the vacant District 7 Council seat until the seat is filled on April 21, pursuant to the April 7 spring election, and also to fill each of her predecessor's Committee, Board and Commission appointments for that same time frame. Motion was then made, seconded and carried by voice vote to approve the appointment. Dep. Clerk Christianson then administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Pearson, after which she was seated at the Council table.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Brown, seconded A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Council meeting.

Agenda:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda.

Hearings and Appearances:

None.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by A. Hraban to adopt Resolution #2015-04 to narrow that portion of W. 7th St. S. lying between Miner and Worden Avenues by taking 12 feet off the west side. Atty. Kenyon then enumerated several issues that came up with little lead time before the meeting relative to this matter. This included that the Petitioners, representing Greenwood Manor, had requested just three hours prior to this meeting that the partial street abandonment also include the north one half of that portion of the Worden Ave. lying west of the west right of way line extended of W. 7th St. It was noted that it is too late to accommodate that request within this meeting such that a separate action will need to be considered at a later date. Discussion followed. Roll call vote: Altmann-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Altmann:

Mr. Altmann had nothing to report.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Carlson distributed a summary of work completed on the rail display in 2014, adding that he plans to be at the February 2, All Committee meeting to discuss it.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by Morgan to offer the vacant position of Asst. Director of Public Works to the highest ranked candidate. Mr. West indicated this is an opportune time to determine how much time is needed for this primarily “inside job” and advocated that a one half time position be established rather than a full time position in view of a continuing need to reduce taxes. Mayor Reynolds stated that the Council’s job is not to reduce taxes, as such, but to operate the City as best it can. Roll call vote on the original motion: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-no; A. Hraban-abstain; Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes. Motion carried to offer position.

Mr. Hraban advised that a tour of the Gates Avenue Plant is slated for 9 a.m. Jan. 29th. As Mayor Reynolds wants to attend, but has another obligation that same morning, he asked if the tour time could be earlier in the morning.

Mr. Hraban reported that City Hall staff determined that reprocessing real estate tax bills after a County error cost \$5,200, and that it is his understanding Rusk County will reimburse that.

District Four, Mr. K. Brown:

Mr. Brown called attention to minutes of the January 19, All Committees meeting.

Mr. Brown reported the following in regard to the new Animal Shelter project:

- *He recently had occasion to talk with a representative of Beechworth Windows who indicated that firm will contact Mr. Christianson.
- *The Animal Shelter Board is looking into an Xcel grant for lighting for the new shelter.
- *The Friends of the Animal Shelter have over \$111,000 in checking to be used toward the new facility.
- *Earthwork done by the County Highway Dept. cost nearly \$10,000 less than estimated.
- *Mayor Reynolds downloaded and distributed some very insightful information about new shelter planning.

It was noted, in response to Mrs. Pearson’s question, that intentions are to finance a new shelter entirely from donations, if possible. She then indicated that she has some fund raising ideas to share.

District Five, Mr. J. West:

Mr. West made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the monthly invoices.

Mr. West asked that LPD provide him a copy of the LPPA labor contract.

Mr. West provided the following highlights from the recent Police and Fire meeting:

*The LFD plans to increase firefighters on the roster from 25 to 27.

*There seem to be some issues with the ambulance facility.

*LPD is developing an eligibility list.

Mr. M. Hraban suggested that any ambulance facility issues be taken to the Rusk County Emergency Govt. Committee.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban had nothing to report.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson had nothing to report.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:

Chief Lobermeier reminded those present that Ladysmith Family Restaurant will be doing a fund raiser for LPD, LFD and EMS on January 27th, and encouraged their attendance as earnings from the day will be donated to them.

Chief Lobermeier also advocated filling an anticipated vacancy in the LPD when that occurs later in the year.

Public Works Dept. Report, Mr. K. Gorsegner:

DPW Gorsegner reported the following in regard to the WTP project:

*That SEH will plan to provide an update at the 02/02 All Committees meeting.

*That progress has been made in the past week with a valve repaired and a new ozone sensor installed.

*Meter work is expected to take place this week.

DPW Gorsegner reported that one of the upgrades planned to be made to U.S. 8 between Bruce and Ladysmith this summer is addition of a turn lane at Schmidt Road. That will necessitate relocating a City hydrant. He suggested that work be designed and bid along with the highway crossing to provide water service to Crazy Bob's Fireworks and Holly's Last Stand.

The DPW noted, in response to a question, that grader repairs are not done yet, but that costs are expected to be in the \$2,000 range to get it through this winter and, at the least, provide time to find a more permanent solution. Mr. Morgan advocated that, while the

grader is in the shop, a box should be built onto the front so it can be filled with 1,500# of sand or other weight to increase down pressure.

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by M. Hraban to approve payments of \$9,378 and \$9,319.25 to MSA for on-site monitoring of the SW sanitary sewer rehab project. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve Payment No. 5 to Staab Construction, in the amount of \$213,000, for work on the WWTF upgrade project. Considerable work remains to be done on this project. Roll call vote: Brown-yes; West-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

DPW Gorsegger called attention to a diagram indicating WisDOT plans to install a raised median at the Lake Ave. rail crossing before it is resurfaced next year. Pedestrian access ramps are also planned to be rebuilt along U.S. 8, and the City is expected to pay 25% of the engineering costs, which have not yet been determined. Concerns were raised about the raised median preventing motorists from turning east off W. 5th St. N. and about trucks not being able to leave the fertilizer plant to the north via U.S. 8 as they won't be able to make the narrow corner with a median at Lake Ave.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Brown to approve Rusk Surveying's Proposal to survey City-owned property along the south shore of Corbett Lake at a cost of \$3,050, to be paid from TIFD #9. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Altmann to approve invoice No. 5 from MSA, in the amount of \$8,710.58, for on-site monitoring of the SW sanitary sewer rehab project. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes; Morgan-no; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes. West-no; A. Hraban-no. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by M. Hraban to approve Payment No. 2 from Pember Excavating, in the amount of \$132,697.38, for work completed on the SW sanitary sewer interceptor project. Roll call vote: Altmann-yes; Morgan-no; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a Joint Powers Agreement with Rusk County relative to 911 services.

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by M. Hraban to approve expenditure of \$6,500 from The Mining Fund to pay for preparation of an application seeking CDBG assistance with a proposed 2015 addition to the Meadowbrook Industrial Center. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson recalled a 2014 meeting where members discussed using monies from The Mining Fund to assist with purchase of high tech equipment to help outfit a Fab Lab at LHS; in part to help increase student awareness of jobs available at local industries. And, in part, to help facilitate further training for present workers who want to upgrade their skills. About \$10-12,500 is needed to match a grant offer made to LHS. Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Altmann and carried by voice vote to authorize Mayor Reynolds to commit up to \$12,500 on the City's behalf in an upcoming meeting with LHS and other potential partners.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon reported that the owner of a dwelling at 1023 W. 9th St. N., which the Council recently approved razing, has contacted Atty. Kenyon to say he will have the building razed himself without further City involvement .

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds asked Council approval of his appointment of Carol Huiras to replace Bill Morgan on the Planning Commission. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve this appointment.

Mayor Reynolds asked approval of his appointments of Bob Cowin and Kim Rogers to the Housing Revolving Loan Fund Board. Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by West and carried by voice vote to approve.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Brown, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant tavern licenses to the following contingent upon LPD approving each:

- *To Hailee R. Jaeger for American Bar.
- *To Amanda R. Smith for Krist Oil Co.
- *To Sean Nagel for Dollar General.
- *To Kyle Berg for Holiday.

Closed Session:

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by M. Hraban to go into closed session under authority cited in the meeting notice. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; West-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Altmann-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Brown, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned from Closed Session at 8:16 p.m. with no further action having been taken therein.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____