

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
January 28, 2019 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

**Roll Call.**

Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, A. Hraban, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Absent: M. Hraban, B. Morgan.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, K. Gorseger, B. Groothousen, R. Grotzinger, K. Gibbs, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, S. Moore, C. Ostenso, D. Parker.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Platteter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2019, Council meeting.

**Agenda:**

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

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to authorize All Committees, at the March 4, meeting, to award contracts for the Fritz Ave., Worden Ave. and Summit Ave. reconstruction projects.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Fields to allocate \$20,000 from TIFD #8 for construction of a Gateway Pavilion over a portion of the municipal lot located south of Lake Ave. between E. 2<sup>nd</sup> and E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-absent; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-no; Pearson-no. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Fields and seconded by A. Hraban to appropriate \$11,300 from TIFD #9 to pay for anticipated 2019 work on the visitor center rail display. Mr. Carlson clarified that some planned activities may need to be added and others dropped as the work unfolds this summer. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to authorize selective removal of trees along the south side of Phillips Ave., after that area has been cleaned up, so that trees to be removed can then be carefully selected.

## **District and Committee Reports:**

### **District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Morgan was absent.

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

Mr. Hraban was absent.

### **District Four, Mr. J. Fields:**

Mr. Fields noted there will be a Community Development Committee meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> and a Rusk County Tourism meeting "tomorrow" at Glory Bs in Bruce. It was also mentioned the City's Tourism Commission will meet Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

Atty. Kenyon cited a document published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics wherein average weekly wages for all Wisconsin counties indicate Rusk is not much different than nearby counties. Adm. Christianson stated that, despite comments to the contrary, Rusk County's average wages as indicated in that report are 48<sup>th</sup> among our State's 72 counties; not right at the bottom. Mr. Grotzinger indicated that, while wages may be comparable, benefits may lag. The Mayor commented on his fiance's raise being more than consumed by increased contributions to benefits.

Atty. Kenyon also noted that our "front line" folks who interact with visitors are often waitresses, convenience store clerks, and so on who may inadvertently send negative messages. He recalled being in line at a local convenience store and hearing the clerk telling an inquisitive customer (with Illinois plates) there is "nuthin" to do around here and, when asked what they locals do, follow up with "they go shoppin in Eau Claire and Rice Lake".

Mr. Fields commented on how important it is to portray our community in a positive way and to challenge folks' negative comments, if only in one on one conversations. He told of a mother urging her daughter to move away for better economic opportunity, when the daughter seemed to like it here. The following were among comment others made:

- I was born here, raised in Chicago, but raised my kids here. It's a great place for that.
- Sometimes you have to leave a place and see what is out there and then you might decide to return. Many residents have done just that.
- I was born in St. Louis, but had grandparents here, which drew me. I raised my kids here and love how easy it is to become involved through volunteering.

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

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the Jan. 21 Public Works meeting and also mentioned another Public Works meeting that preceded this one, minutes from which will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Carlson advised that a 2018 Year End Report on Corbett Lake activities progress will be forthcoming.

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

Mrs. Pearson reminded those present of the always popular Ladysmith Family Restaurant fund raiser to be held all day on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Gibbs:**

Fire Chief Gibbs echoed Mrs. Pearson's mention of the upcoming fund raiser, emphasizing that 100% of the day's receipts are given to EMS, LFD and LPD.

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

DPW Gorsegner stated that the last snow removal was hampered some by having to work around downtown traffic, adding that you have to work with what happens, when it happens, which always differs. He also reported that the new boiler pump was installed at the armory in the nick of time, before this cold snap, and that after working out a few kinks it is now providing all the heat needed. He commended Marty Reynolds for having nursed it along to keep it above freezing until the pump was installed.

DPW Gorsegner advised that, to address the City's incidence or worker's compensation claims, the City's insurance carrier is requiring it to create a "safety committee" to identify actions that can reasonably be taken to reduce hazards. He anticipates that department heads will be some of the members.

Adm. Christianson stated that one component of the City's safety issues that needs to be given serious thought is the condition of our public works shop and some of our storage buildings. He went on to say that he is always reading about new shops being built, adding that ours has to be one of the most crowded and antiquated in northern Wisconsin.

The DPW also stated that the City needs to develop a call out policy so that some workers don't have to constantly tie up their personal time while others seldom do. He is concerned that one or more of our employees may burn out otherwise. He will seek labor attorney Mindy Dale's assistance as she may already have access to a proven policy. Communities he has surveyed pay employees for being "on call"; some considerable amounts.

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

It was recalled that All Committees recommended that upgrading existing and adding additional security lights at Westlake be approved at a cost of \$2,680 to JL Electric to be paid from Westlake rents. Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to

approve. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-absent; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson requested action to authorize expending \$3,000 from Fund 290 to prepare cost estimates for a simplified subdivision along the south side of Phillips Ave. E. Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Fields to do so. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-absent; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

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

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:**

Mayor Christianson commented on the following:

- Urged folks to attend LHS grad Matt Jablonsky's talk on drug addiction and recovery to be held Monday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Library.
- Commended folks like Ray Carlson and Bill Morgan, along with John Terrill and Kent Ohlfs before them, for all their efforts to provide the nice rail displays the City has. He went on to say that not everyone is into or supportive of everything, or of the same things, but that is why the City provides a variety to appeal to many interests.
- Thanked the Council for voting to approve funds for the Gateway Pavilion.
- Indicated that a meeting will be held soon with a private housing developer.
- Recognized Mr. Platteter's ongoing concern for the homeless, adding that he hopes that can be addressed within a broader pursuit of housing solutions. He went on to say that while homelessness may trace back to bad decisions in some cases, there are others where it is a result of plain bad luck.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to grant tavern operator's licenses to Sara Wilke and Heather Van Patter for Holiday, contingent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a chicken keeping permit renewal to Julia Galina at 810 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. N.

**Closed Session:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Pearson to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice-Sec. 19.85(1) (e) Wis. Stats. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-absent; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to return to open session.

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Fields to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice-Sec. 19.85 (1) (g) Wis. Stats. Roll call vote: Fields-

yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned shortly before 7 p.m.

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

Alan Christianson  
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

**Publication:**

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