

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
January 8, 2018 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, R. Moore, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: A. Albarado, R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, W. Stoll.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Gorsegner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017, Council meeting.

Agenda:

Mayor Reynolds explained that agenda items 5) a. and 6) a. will not be acted on as the USDA paperwork is not ready. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda with those changes.

Hearings and Appearances:

At 6:34 p.m. Mayor Reynolds convened a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to enable rear yard setbacks to be allowed by conditional permit from the Planning Commission. Mr. Stoll explained how it was that he had requested a setback reduction to make lots near the Tee A Way usable for twin home sites. Those lots, as platted, are somewhat small by local standards. He went on to say that the Planning Commission's idea to make such change possible anywhere in the City rather than just in his specific location was a good idea. The hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m.

Jaycee representative A. Christianson 2 appeared to report that organization conducted a holiday decorations drive and received donations of lights and other pieces valued at about \$350, which were handed over to the City.

Mr. Albarado updated the Council on current advertising and promotional efforts he oversees, which are handled primarily through the visitor center staff. He provided copies of printed materials to those present and demonstrated the interactive website. Mr. Hraban complimented Mr. Albarado on the quality of the new promotional booklet.

Mr. Albarado also expressed optimism about two new events being planned for 2018; a rodeo, promotion of which will get JEM grant assistance, and a "gravel grinder" bike race. Both are being developed largely by private entities. He went on to say that Rusk

County is positioning itself to “land” the Governor’s 2019 Fishing Opener which would, presumably, be held at Lake Flambeau.

Mr. Albarado also mentioned an area resort that has and is building tiny houses as additional accommodations. [A second resort is believed to be doing likewise.]

It was mentioned that renting out vacant or seasonal homes to vacationers is a growing trend. The City has already seen that. If not monitored closely the City could miss out on room taxes from such accommodations. It is believed that the League of Municipalities has developed sample language for municipalities to consider in modifying their room tax laws to receive the revenues from these so-called “airbnb’s”.

This discussion ended shortly after 7 p.m.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Ordinance #2018-01 to amend rear yard setback requirements to enable reduced setbacks by conditional use permit.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Resolution #2018-01; a preliminary resolution declaring intent to exercise special assessment police powers under Section 66.073 Wis. Stats., relating to sidewalk, curb and gutter repair and replacement, along with the attendant Director of Public Works Report.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter called attention to an upcoming Library Board meeting.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan responded to a question by indicating rail display volunteers could probably get started on planned 2018 work with approval of \$5,000 for now. Initial work would involve hiring Camp Flambeau labor to work on items to be placed in the Lake Ave. Rail Display now under construction. It is hoped that they can start tomorrow. He would also like to see a cover put over the caboose and boxcar at the Visitor Center Rail Display. Some options for accomplishing that were mentioned.

Mr. Morgan then made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban to approve initial expenditure of \$5,000 for 2018 display activities, which would be in addition to carry over of \$4,294.54 from 2017, along with donations of \$1,127.83. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to the status of broken sanitary sewer in W. 5th St. N. near Summit Ave. Mr. Gorsegner advised that reconstruction of that section is being added to design of the pending Summit Ave. project.

Mr. Carlson displayed samples of both a translucent human silhouette previously made [by mural artist Kelly Meredith] and another that is clear, which was recently made by Jim Stanton. The former were to be installed in windows of the passenger car at the visitor center rail display to make it look occupied. Rail display volunteers believe the clear glass silhouettes will be easier to see. Nineteen of the latter are needed to populate the passenger car, at an estimated cost of \$750. Another application would be sought for the translucent panels already produced.

It was noted, in response to a question, that cages are not yet installed at the new animal shelter and there has been no rush to move in with recent cold weather. Mayor Reynolds called attention to a need for condensate pumps so that this acidic residue doesn't run across floors, which it might damage.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban reported that the Property Committee will meet January 10th at 10 a.m. to consider how the City might work with other entities to finance a new farmer's market pavilion. Mrs. Pearson stated that people have told her that they don't think the City should spend money on such pavilion. It would be spending tax money to support competition with taxpayers from non-residents who are not taxpayers. It was clarified that, although farmer's market vendors were opposed to relocating the market some years back, they are said to be unified in their desire to move away from increasing railroad activity at the current site. It is hoped the pavilion can be built using some TIF #8 monies. As such, only property owners in that district whose values were established or increased after the tornado will be supporting it financially. [So, that means the new Kaiser Realty office; Krist Oil; Eastern Chinese Restaurant; the former Dairyland Insurance; etc.] As such, other City taxpayers will not be contributing.

District Four, Mr. R. Moore:

Mr. Moore advised that the Finance Committee will be meeting monthly in 2018 and will look at actual invoices to better understand what each was for, rather than just a listing of invoices.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban to appropriate \$3,600 annually from the water utility to purchase replacement water meter bases. DPW Gorseigner explained how this will facilitate replacement on a twenty-year cycle, now allowed by DNR, rather than the ten-year cycle the City has been on. At the end of the ten-year cycle the City had to remove, clean, make dwelling access appointments with customers, and re-install meters, requiring considerable time. Simply removing and replacing meter bases in a single visit every twenty years will eliminate cleaning time and that spent on second appointments, saving more money than the cost of the new meter

purchases. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Meters will be replaced based on longest time in service, based upon serial numbers, unless special circumstances require one to be replaced prematurely.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet at 5 on January 17th.

Mrs. Pearson made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve an update to the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Mr. Carlson observed that he will need to compare the Outdoor Rec Plan with the Corbett Lake Management Plan and suggest adjustments, if needed, so that they conform with each other.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports:

It was noted, in response to a question, that the bid for a retired fire truck the City has listed is up to just over \$4,000 with some time left.

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

DPW Gorsegner and Mayor Reynolds responded to Mrs. Stoneberg's question by explaining what a "cross connection" is as that term relates to water lines.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of \$28,499.16 to McCabe Const. for work completed on W. 2nd St. N. reconstruction. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by M. Hraban to approve payment of \$246,582.50 to McCabe Const. for work completed on the Center Ave./Pederson Ave./E. 8th St. project. Roll call vote: Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of a Morgan & Parmley invoice in the amount of \$14,322.50, for design work preparatory to reconstruction of portions of Fritz and Worden Avenues. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan -yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes. Motion carried.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by A. Hraban to approve expenditure of \$200 to have Hoover Const. do some initial repairs to the old log pavilion in Memorial Park. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried. A quote will be sought to do additional repair work needed to conserve this landmark.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of \$3,375 to MSA for administration of that portion of recent SDWLP administration relating to W. 2nd. St. N. project. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of \$4,500 to MSA for 2016 CDBG administration relating to the Center Ave./Pederson Ave./E. 8th St. S. project. Roll call vote: Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson called attention to the Doughty Road Industrial Area Business Directory sign noting that, over the years, some of the placards have become discolored and aren't a good representation of the City. He also noted a Proposal from Weimer Artworks to replace these as well as add placards for operations which never head them, and remove placards for operations no longer there. Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Pearson to approve the \$1,210 Proposal as a cost to Fund 290. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson recommended that NWRPC's contract to administer the City's Housing Revolving Loan Fund be extended for one year to provide time to explore options. Concerns were expressed about monies lost to the fund in recent years owing to seeming inability to keep an eye on the status of loan recipients/occupants. Some of that oversight may need to be brought back "in house". Other options to investigate were also mentioned. Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by M. Hraban to approve a one-year extension. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes. Motion carried.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Attorney Kenyon urged members to read an article in the most recent issue of The Municipality wherein advice is given regarding open records and personal emails.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds advised that Steve Johnson and Bob Williams have stepped down from the Tourism Commission and asked that the Council approve his appointments of Tami Kraft and Travis Turner to replace them. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to approve these appointments.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to approve a tavern operator's license for Margaret Sihsman at County Market.

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to Approve tavern operator's licenses for Rebecca Lincoln and Rachael Rosolowski, both for VMA.