

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
January 9, 2017 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, R. Moore, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds. Absent: B. Stoneberg.

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

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 M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Mayor Reynolds convened a public hearing on proposed 2017 sidewalk, curb and gutter repairs and replacements. There were no public appearances. Members did, however, comment on a couple instances where the identified damages were said to be tornado cleanup related or caused by other City operations. The City will absorb the cost of a repair where a member was able to verify it being tornado related. In another case it appears to be gradual and routine deterioration. Mayor Reynolds closed the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the sidewalk, curb and gutter repair and replacement list, as attached, provided, however, that the City will absorb the cost of the Rhoads project at 615 Miner Ave. W.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter commented on an upcoming Library Board meeting where Saturday closings and staffing needs will be discussed. Mr. M. Hraban then noted that consideration should be given to adjusting open hours on weekdays to assure coverage is available on Saturdays.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan invited Ray Carlson to review 2016 rail display expenditures, which he did.

Mr. Morgan advised that Eric Thompson is currently unable to load the City's motorcar at Chisago City, but that the intention is still to get that back to Ladysmith yet this winter.

Referring to the Chief Flambeau chainsaw carving that Ted East is working on, Mr. Morgan suggested that it be located at the downtown gateway parking lot rather than near the Rusty Timber metal sculpture as folks are most often preoccupied with turning and negotiating other traffic at the latter location such that they won't really be able to look at the carving.

Referring to an All Committee meeting slated to follow the Council meeting, Mayor Reynolds suggested that the Personnel Committee take this up and recommendation a course of action to the Council rather than the All Committees meeting this evening. Mayor Reynolds added that economic development is becoming harder to get done so is increasingly important.

Mr. Carlson displayed some shipping crate labels Asst. DPW Parker made from vintage images. Mr. Carlson also advised he has a sample Railway Express label that could be enlarged and laminated to place on the City's railway cart to be displayed in the Lake Ave. display. It was also mentioned that the Fine Arts Center Gallery has an assortment of stencils on hand. Mayor Reynolds suggested we find some recognizable local names to place on labels. Referring to the Wards ad, Mr. Morgan noted that the house on the SW corner of W. 2nd and Fritz was a "kit house" such as could be bought through the Wards catalog. And that there is another of these next door to Holiday.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban advised that the Rusk Co. Emergency Gov't. Committee will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 11th, and that the School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on January 10th.

It was noted, in response to a question, that the survey of the City/Groothousen property line hasn't yet been started and will cost from \$700-1,000. Intentions are to start soon.

District Four, Mr. R. Moore:

Mr. Moore called attention to the Dec. 19, All Committees minutes. He then made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban to approve the monthly invoices. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-absent; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg was absent.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban advised that, at its recent meeting, the Transit Commission focused on its 2017 budget. An attempt is being made to have the manager appear before the Council.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Attention was called to an article about data towers in the January's The Municipality.

Mrs. Pearson called attention to minutes of the December 27, Community Development Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Pearson and seconded by Morgan to locate the next veterans mural on the west side of the farmer's market site, to include relocation of the mural on the east side of the former True Value to this new location, and subject to any vision setback limitations. CN police officer Ben Black is looking into the latter. Adm. Christianson stated that this location could accommodate up to 150 depictions, while there are probably closer to 60 on the current waiting list.

Motion was made by Pearson and seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the concept of an equipment lease with Vic Rouleau, d/b/a Vic's Visions, relating to 10 metal sculptures to be located at specific sites around the downtown, with one at the visitor center. The cost will be \$250 annually for 10.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:

Chief Lobermeier alerted those present that Ladysmith Family Restaurant will hold its annual fundraiser for local police, fire and emergency services on Tuesday, January 31st.

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

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Pearson to approve an MSA invoice in the amount of \$12,351.75 for design work through Dec. 6, on E. 8th St. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-absent; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Moore to approve payment of a Morgan & Parmley invoice in the amount of \$800 for work on permitting for the City a clean fill disposal site off Barten Road. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-absent; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

DPW Gorsegner reported that he is receipt of an invoice from Larson Const. Co., in the amount of \$52,067.97, for work performed replacing the undermined outfall north of the intersection of Lake Ave. and 1st St., which serves the downtown area. He also reported he is in receipt of three invoices from Morgan & Parmley which relate to work that firm is doing on various street projects. He is also in receipt of a Proposal from Ziegler Electric to install LED heads on 7 streetlights at a cost of \$2,800. Xcel couldn't convert these 7 as they are City-owned.

DPW Gorsegner noted, in response to a question, that frost is down 30-48" under streets and water temperatures in our system range from 37-39 degrees above.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson noted that Xcel Energy replied to the application for community assistance he filed on the City's behalf by donating \$1,000 toward the cost of installing lights and outlets in the planned Lake Ave. rail display.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve having the Fine Arts Center Gallery paint the exterior of the covered footbridge in Falge Park red this coming spring for \$650. Having someone paint the interior in a light color has also been recommended. Both the interior and exterior are unpainted at this time. It was also suggested that the inside and outside be primed after it is certain moisture is out and will not be trapped in the wood. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-absent; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

It was noted, in response to a question, that the Lions have not yet considered whether they will be involved with the footbridge project, as they are currently focused on raising money for the proposed amphitheater.

Sketches of a potential new farmer's market pavilion were distributed. [The sketch is based on using the same framing system as with the locomotive shelter, to include the bonnet style roof.]

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon recalled a couple statistics from a recent Housing Market Analysis prepared for the City:

- 20% of the local workforce travels 50 or more miles to work here, which may indicate it isn't a place they would like to live or a place where they aren't finding the type of housing they seek.
- There are subtle differences between "workforce" housing, for those making up to \$60,000, and "affordable" housing for those making up to \$39,000.

Members are still concerned that any new housing complex will come to be dominated by non working residents.

Atty. Kenyon reported that there is indeed "a free lunch" adding that all present are invited to attend a Rusk County Workforce Summit to be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19th at the Tee-A-Way Golf and Supper Club. He went on to say that Adm. Christianson has brochures.

Atty. Kenyon asked if anyone is aware of any additional dilapidated dwellings in need of removal. One was mentioned, but it is outside the City. It was noted, in response to a question, that plans are to raze a dilapidated dwelling at 409 North Ave. yet this week.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds encouraged members to stay abreast of the local permanent school closing issue and other important issues facing the community, including the City's role in attracting new residents.

Mr. M. Hraban expressed concern about the proposed level of borrowing projected to facilitate a shift from three to two school buildings. He questioned whether the money needed to service the debt can really be offset by anticipated savings.

Mayor Reynolds called attention to a card from Rhonda Grey and her family thanking the City for its support following her mother's recent passing.

Licenses and Permits:

None.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:40 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____

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