

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
January 13, 2020 5:15 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call.

Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, B. Groothousen, A. Hraban, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, K. Gorseger, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance. .

Minutes:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Groothousen and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019, Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Ray Carlson appeared and requested the following:

- That the previous minutes be revised to show that he advocated (dissolved) oxygen rather than water testing at Corbett Lake.
- That the 2020 budget he distributed at the Jan. 6, All Committee meeting be discussed at the Jan. 20, All Committee meeting.
- That Corbett Lake Folder #28 be slated for review and approval at the next All Committee meeting.

Mr. Carlson also reviewed the purposes for selected Corbett Lake folders.

Noting that it is anticipated a contract for reconstruction of the W. 5th St. N. and Gates Ave. intersection may be approved at the February 24, Council meeting, Mr. Morgan requested a copy of the plans for that project.

Mr. Parker thanked the Council for it support of popular Memorial Park holiday decorations. It was noted, however, that 8 sections of rope lights had been pulled off the U.S. 8 bridge and stolen.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a tavern operator's license for Ashley Zimmerman.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter advised that the Library Board will meet January 14th at 5 p.m. he also requested that a Finance meeting be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, January 20th.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan advocated installing a weighted (w/gravel) box on the front end of the grader so it isn't as likely to ride up over ice. That consideration was hampered when the grader's frame broke a couple years ago and its fate wasn't clear. He also asked why hydrants aren't shoveled out. The Water Dept. gets to those as soon as it reasonably can. It really helps when residents shovel out those near their homes. Mr. Klink will include a request for citizen assistance in an upcoming issue of the L. News.

District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:

Mr. Groothousen reported he had received a couple calls about snow removal. Others did as well. Mr. Gorsegner noted that it has been an issue after the City received two heavy wet snows in rapid succession to begin the season. When folks driver over those the snow immediately stuck to the frozen road below. The crew tried to get as much up as possible, but has limited manpower.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields read a letter from Jim "Lobster" Riddle who requested that he do so to explain why the latter is backing away from helping with a proposed boating safety and fishing event.

Mr. Fields made a motion and Stoneberg seconded to grant the City's non-represented employees four personal days off and the ability to convert 80% of their accumulated sick days to a cash payment upon retirement; up from 60% at present. LPPA members already have these benefits. A question was raised how personal days off differ from vacation days. DPW Gorsegner replied it is his understanding that personal days off whereas vacation days are earned based on each employees' longevity in City employment. Roll call vote: Platteter-abstain; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stoneberg made a motion and Hraban seconded to authorize advertising for an administrator to replace Mr. Christianson who will be retiring effective April 3rd. members then reviewed the draft advertisement. Adm. Christianson spoke on why it was that many people didn't understand what the role of the administrator was. He stated that because his work was centered in economic development the private businesses involved often demanded confidentiality until a final vote was ready. He was granted the latitude to work out a best deal for the City and the Council generally agreed. In one case a private business he worked with for about two years had said if they saw or heard they

name in local news he would never see them again. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Fields also advised that the Personnel Committee will meet immediately following this meeting.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet Jan.15, at 5 p.m.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the January 6, All Committees meeting. He also advised that the Public Works Comm. will plan to meet Jan. 20, after the All Committees meeting.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds stated there will be a meeting on Jan. 22, to discuss pursuit of a hospital reuse effort that would involve making it a northern Wisconsin vet's hospital.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports:

No reports.

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

Asked about the status of the armory remodeling project, the DPW stated that getting the contract done was delayed by the holidays.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson requested approval of an SEH Proposal to assist the City with creation of potential TIFD #13 at a cost of \$12,800 to that new District. He stated that the primary purpose of creating TIFD #13 will be to assist successful conversion of that property to a tax paying housing complex. Mr. Reynolds suggested that by including streets adjacent to that property within the District's boundaries it might also provide a source of financing to rebuild them when needed. Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Groothousen to approve the SEH Proposal. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson asked Council consideration of NCA's request to upgrade street lighting along Port Arthur Rd. from Wall-Mart to NCA. While upgrading the lamps from 155W to 246W isn't expected to result in charges, each of 8 units will cost about \$5/mo. more to operate for a total annual operating cost increase of about \$500. Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Groothousen to approve. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-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:

- That the City received a number of donations toward holiday lighting this past season, including \$200 from Bruce Telephone.
- Why he made some of the committee appointments he did, including to put members on some they might not be familiar with in order to broaden their knowledge of City operations.

Closed Session:

Motion was made by Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothusen-; Fields-;. Motion ed.

Adjourn:

At 6:36 p.m. motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to adjourn.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____