

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

January 27, 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. Gibbs, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, R. Nash, 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 Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 13, 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:

Gordon Pedersen appeared to present the attached proposal to reduce the administrator position to one half time with pay to be the same as the Mayor's (\$3,600 annually), which the latter has donated back to community causes. Under Mr. Pedersen's proposal one half the work this position has performed would be taken on by other City Hall staff.

Rick Nash then appeared to suggest that interviews for the advertised position of administrator be conducted by a panel of businessmen, which he had talked with Mrs. Stoneberg about. Mrs. Stoneberg clarified that, while she agrees that having an independent panel interview candidates has appeal, she feels it should be a panel of administrators from other communities like Barron and Bloomer. Mr. Morgan had recently advocated that Ladysmith's administrator position description be revised to be like Barron's and Bloomers in providing the position clear control over City operations. Adm. Christianson then stated the position cannot have control over the police and fire departments as that is statutorily vested in the Police and Fire Commission, or over the Library as that is statutorily vested in the Library Board. He said that means such revision would essentially apply only to public works operations. He questioned the wisdom of creating yet another layer in public works and why someone with no working knowledge of plowing operations should second guess a work group with over 100 years of experience between them, not including their Director's own experience. It was clarified that the administrator description was last revised in May, 2017.

It was also suggested that as Personnel Committee Chair Mr., Fields could have a conflict real or perceived, depending on who might apply for the administrator position.

Licenses and Permits:

There were no licenses or permits approved.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Grootousen, seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote to authorize Ray Carlson to write the 2019 annual Corbett Lake Mgt. Plan Progress Report and to send it on to past recipients.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter advised that a Finance meeting will follow this meeting.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan commented earlier about the administrator job description having been altered since he left that committee, as its Chairman.

District Three, Mr. B. Grootousen:

Mr. Grootousen noted intentions of holding a Community Development meeting following the February 3, All Committees meeting.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields called attention to minutes of the Jan. 15 and 20, Personnel Comm. meetings.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg stated that she has asked if anyone has items to come before the Legal Affairs Committee, but nobody seems to at this time.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban made a motion which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to seek bids for about 11 seal coating projects for 2020.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds advised that outside of the community center discussion, things are slow at this time with Youth and Recreation matters. He also noted that the ad hoc committee investigating a Veteran's medical facility reuse of the current hospital will be meeting Feb. 3, at 1 p.m., and that, beginning Feb. 4, he will be away for three weeks.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien advised that applicants for open officer positions have been winnowed down from 18 to 6.

Mr. Gibbs called attention to the fund raiser to be held the next day at Ladysmith Family Restaurant where 100% of the day's proceeds will be donated to the Rusk Co. Sheriff's Dept., and Ladysmith Police and Fire Departments.

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

The DPW had nothing further to report.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

After recalling the adage "people don't know what they don't know" Adm. Christianson handed out and read aloud the attachment hereto with the following titled questions:

- Why does the City want to take the former U.S. Army Reserve Center off the tax roll ?
- Why didn't the City sell the former Army Reserve Center ?
- Why does the City want to take the former elementary school off the tax roll ?
- Why is the City turning the former Army Reserve Center into a garage ?

Prior to reading he stated he has heard these questions from friends, relatives and others often enough to conclude there is a good deal of misinformation floating around about these and other topics so felt compelled to try to dispel at least these. He asked if anyone present found fault with anything he stated. When nobody did, he asked Ladysmith News Editor Klink to consider putting these in the paper to provide accurate information.

Adm. Christianson asked if anyone recalls having witnessed any seeming conflict of interest involving he and the Mayor, his son, since the Mayor was elected. Nobody present indicated having such a concern.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon advised that it seems new rules will be forthcoming regarding use of fire foams containing PFAS. Referring to Assembly Bill 544, which Adm. Christianson handed out, Mr. Kenyon noted that the \$10,000,000 proposed to be allocated Statewide by WHEDA for workforce housing is not available to 9 Wisconsin counties considered to be "urban", but that the other 63 counties, including Rusk, are eligible.

Atty. Kenyon also recounted how a couple who previously worked at a large auto plant are relocating here as it is midway between their new jobs. He advocated additional effort to make displaced workers aware of what our area has to offer them.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson stated that he enjoyed attending last week's State of the State address. He then read a presentation he made over the past weekend to the Chamber of Commerce, which he said was somewhat akin to a State of the City address. A copy is attached.

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: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

During Closed Session a motion was made by Groothousen, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Hraban, which was seconded by he meeting was adjourned 7:15 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____

ORDINANCE #2020-01

AMENDING ZONING CODE TO ALLOW DUPLEXES
BY CONDITIONAL USE IN R-1 DISTRICT

The Common Council of the City of Ladysmith do ordain as follows:

1. That Sec. 13-1-24 (b) (15) of the Ladysmith Municipal Code of Ordinances, Conditional Uses [in R-1 Districts], is hereby created to read as follows.

(b) Conditional Uses.

(15) Two family dwellings a/k/a duplexes.

2. That this ordinance amendment shall take effect upon passage and publication.

_____ by _____ vote at a regular meeting of the Common Council held the
___ day of February, 2020.

Signed: _____
Alan Christianson, Mayor

Attest: _____
Shari Kavanagh, Clerk