

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
October 22, 2018 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call.

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

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker, T. Verdegan.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Pearson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2018, Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

After display of the iconic budget hat, the 2019 General Operations budget hearing was called to order. Comptroller Verdegan led a review of the proposed budget, which does include \$277,682 of borrowing for capital purchases, but does not include a tax increase.

- Among other comments or observations made during the hearing were the following:
- Wal Mart believes the City is over-taxing it by about \$78,000 annually, and has filed an action seeking relief, which could result in that firm being owed a considerable amount on a retroactive basis.
 - The initial difference between projected revenues and budget requests was nearly One Million Dollars such that a lot of difficult decisions had to be made to balance the 2019 budget proposal.
 - Finance Committee members M. Hraban, Platteter and Stoneberg are to be commended, along with the Comptroller for their efforts to put this proposed budget together.
 - People's tax bills might look somewhat different if the School District, as the largest taxing jurisdiction, were to also collect the taxes. Instead complaints about total tax bills are made here where collection occurs.
 - Consideration should be given to budgeting an amount for fire hall roof work. It was also suggested that, in addition to plowing snow on the north side of the fire hall, that it should also be broomed to help prevent icing.

The hearing was closed at 5:32 p.m.

Mr. Carlson appeared to report that, although the lighting system is back on, the visitor center rail display has been closed for the season.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Platteter and seconded by M. Hraban to approve Resolution #2018-21 to adopt a 2019 General operations budget and to set the real estate tax levy for 2018. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve the revised fee schedule attached. Selected increases are highlighted in yellow. It was explained that this schedule was developed to bring fees together in one place for simplicity of revision. They were once scattered throughout the municipal code. Comptroller Verdegan explained one additional change suggested at the Finance meeting earlier in the day. That change sets a separate trash rate change for 10 customers, which are residential complexes with six or more dwelling units. Trash charges to individual households will increase by \$8.96 annually. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-no; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter reported on the Finance Committee meeting held prior to this meeting. At Mr. Platteter's request Comptroller Verdegan and DPW Gorseigner explained the differences between a so-called "simplified rate increase" for water use and a comprehensive rate increase. The Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates municipal water utilities in the State, has recommended that the City adopt at least a simplified increase as rates aren't keeping pace with current water utility costs. Planned rebuilding of portions of Fritz and Worden Avenues next year, including water main work, is likely to exacerbate those differences. Action to proceed with a simplified increase will be placed on the next Council agenda.

Mr. M. Hraban made a motion and Platteter seconded to approve the monthly invoices. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Referring to recent meeting minutes, Mr. Carlson noted that, although the Council may not always like it, the Library Board controls the library just like the Park Board controls parks and the P&FC controls the LPD.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan reported that puppies recently given over to the animal shelter were adopted out almost immediately. There are some noise issues within the new building. Some sound absorbing panels may be added to address this.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the Oct. 15, All Committees meeting. He added that the Joint Management Committee will plan to meet next week.

Mr. Hraban also thanked Mr. Klink for informative articles the he recently wrote in the Ladysmith News.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields made a motion and Pearson seconded to set aside \$5,000 of the \$7,820 currently remaining in the 2018 Council grants and aids budget line to be used as startup money for promotions being developed by the Community Development Committee. At year's end any unused dollars will be designated in the fund balance for this purpose. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried. The CD Committee members thanked other members for their support.

Mr. Fields reported that the farmer's market is closed for the season.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet Oct. 24th at 5 p.m.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

It was reported that the City is awaiting a Proposal to repair the leaking roof at City Hall. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to authorize the Property Committee to award this contract.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson had nothing to report.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Gibbs for LFD and K. Julien for LPD:

Fire Chief Gibbs reported that a recent open house at the fire hall drew over 100. He also thanked the Council for its support of LFD's budget request. He went on to say that fire hall repairs are likely to be a focus over the next 3-5 years.

With the holiday season believed to be a time when burglaries peak, Chief Julien led a discussion of home security measures residents can take. Atty. Kenyon and others expanded on these.

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

The DPW had nothing to report.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson requested approval of a quote of \$855 from The Mining Fund to make electrical service upgrades to the 1920s House garage to facilitate its conversion to a

plow museum workshop. The electrical work needs to be done before the building is insulated. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Morgan to approve expenditure of \$200 from TIFD #9 to pinstripe military silhouettes placed at the rail display so they will contrast better with or stand out from the rail cars which form their back drop. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

It was suggested that E. 16th St. north of Menasha Ave. might be a section of street that can be successfully ground and repaved without necessity of underground utility work. And this work might be financed from TIFD #11. It was also suggested that the same might be true of the portion of Fritz Ave. from W. 5th St. to W. 9th St., which might be financed from TIFD #9.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon told of a case where Weyauwega, WI had filed suit against CN for blocking intersections in excess of what is allowed by local ordinance. Even though State authorities concurred this happened, the appeals court sided with the CN by finding that interstate commerce rules pre-empt any local control.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson advised those present of several upcoming events or activities:

-Halloween Night Out from 4:30-7 on Friday, October 26th.

-Free movie at Miner Theatre on Sat., October 27th.

-Haunted Houses (Flambeau High, Jaycees, and Masons) on both October 26th and 27th.

LPD Chief Julien noted that the designated time for trick or treating is from 4-7 p.m. on October 31st.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to approve tavern operator's licenses for Douglas Nagel and Scarlet M. Nagel for VMA, contingent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a private alarm system permit for Deanna Williams.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by M. Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk