

**OCTOBER 26, 2016 LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (filed as OCTOBER 28)**

5:15 p.m. Conference Room. Members present: A. Hraban for J. Pearson, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, A. Lobermeier.

**Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Stoneberg called the meeting to order.

**Room Taxes:**

There was discussion of requiring that, to level the playing field, room taxes be paid on dwellings let similarly to motels. One such establishment here has been registered with the State, but is believed to be sold or in the process of being sold as a private dwelling.

**Tower Request Fee:**

There was discussion of establishing a \$1,000 fee to process siting requests for communications towers. This requirement would, presumably, be added at SEC. 13-1-131 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances. The actual fee would be set in a Schedule of Fees kept by the Clerk. DPW Gorsegner reviewed purposes for which fees may be charged, which listing Mr. Platteter found on line.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to recommend that the necessary language be drafted and approved by the Council.

**Tourism Commission**

Attention was called to sample ordinances to create tourism commissions, which the City will need to do before year's end. The samples are from Germantown, Monona, and Rice Lake, WI. Adm. Christianson suggested this be added as new SEC. 2-4-11 and that existing SEC. 2-4-11 be renumbered as Sec. 2-4-12 and existing SEC. 2-4-12 as SEC. 2-4-13. He will draft an ordinance based on the Monona example as its ordinance numbering system seems to best match ours.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of such ordinance.

**Campfire Events:**

After reviewing SEC. 5-2-9 (a) and 5-2-9 (b) (5) and (6) of the Municipal Code of Ordinances those present agreed that these sections seem to allow the Police Chief to grant a permit for a campfire with such terms and conditions as the Police Chief may require provided, however, that the Fire Chief may override such permit. Mrs. Stoneberg suggested revising language slightly to provide that the Police Chief's approval shall be with the Fire Chief's concurrence. Others agreed this will be better.

**Alcohol in Public Places:**

It was reported that, at this time, the Main Street program is not going to pursue allowing private alcohol use in conjunction with any campfire event downtown. Mrs. Stoneberg noted that she saw many adverse impacts from alcohol use during her working career as a deputy that she cannot support its use and doesn't understand why it has to be part of public events. The other Committee members present echoed some of those same concerns adding that "it could get out of hand".

**Street Names:**

Adm. Christianson suggested that, if there is interest in naming streets after previous City names to preserve some recollection of them, the following seem to be good options:

- Changing E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. to Flambeau Falls Drive, or Street, as the actual Flambeau Falls was located where the Ladysmith Hydro Station is at the north end of E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.
- Only one City-owned building is addressed off Norse Drive in the industrial area and mail is not received there. The name was already changed once to Weather Shield Way, although the signs were never put up and now that firm no longer owns the large plant located off the north end of it.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Hraban to recommend Council approval of these street name changes.

**Technology Committee:**

It was noted that, if a Technology Committee is to be established as one of seven standing Council committees, another would have to be eliminated. It was mentioned that maybe the Park Board and Youth and Recreation Committee could be combined as they seem to be in places like Rice Lake and Eau Claire. The two of them combined met only one half dozen times in 2015. Alternately, it was suggested that, perhaps, technology could be added to the role of the Community Development Committee.

As discussion continued on this subject it seemed to become clearer that having access to people with skills in a variety of technologies is more important and that there is so much specialization that the City will likely need to spend increasingly larger amounts to access such specialists. While the City has been able to use Rusk County's IT people in the past, it seems they are becoming increasingly overwhelmed.

**Administrator:**

There was discussion of changes that may need to occur when Adm. Christianson retires. That may create more obligations for the Mayor. Mrs. Stoneberg advocated that clerical duties be transferred to the front office staff. DPW Gorsegner advocated hiring a replacement with economic development skills or background.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Stoneberg, which was seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.