

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

October 14, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Council Chamber

Roll Call.

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

Others present: J. Baye, R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, Levi Mataczynski, D. Parker, C. Schultz, R. Tuisl.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Fields led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2019, Council meeting.

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to authorize Ray Carlson to closed Corbett Lake Folders 17 and 18.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

It was noted that financial advisor Sean Lentz from Ehlers and Associates will be at the October 28, Council meeting to discuss long-term borrowing being considered.

Joe Baye and Rich Tuisl, representing Westlake Enterprises, appeared to update the Council on that operation's role and to invite Council participation at its Employment First Community Conversation to be held Wednesday, October 30th in the Cameo Room at Ladysmith Care Community, 1001 E. 11th St. N. Mr. Baye is a member of Westlake's Board of Directors and Mr. Tuisl is its Job Developer, Among comments they offered were the following: *We have a lot of contract work from Parker Hannifin in Chetek. *All Westlake employees pay income taxes.*Westlake does piece work for Weather Shield, Rockwell and Jeld-Wen, among others.*Westlake's advantage for these local businesses is quick turnaround and low cost delivery.*The City has been a good landlord keeping our space in good shape.*Westlake clients are from all over Rusk Co. and range in age from 24 into their 80s.*Westlake's clients can stay in school until age 21.*Many clients are placed through DVR.*Clients process a million pieces a quarter.*16% of our County's population has some form of disability.*Westlake has only 8% turnover while the rate for the population at large is 45%. This discussion concluded at 5:34 p.m.

Mr. Carlson reported that Mr. Morgan called him to advise that he expects the baggage car stored on tracks by the E. 6th St. crossing to be moved soon. Mr. Carlson also asked if storage space in the Fritz Avenue Plant might be shared with Thompson Excavating.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve all licenses and permits listed on the attached sheet, contingent upon LPD approval.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve Resolution #2019-15 to close the north 75 feet of the alley in Block 14 of New Flambeau Addition to Ladysmith. It was noted that 25 feet section of the alley will remain in case it is needed to deal with storm water drainage.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter called attention to minutes of the Oct. 10, Finance meeting, which focused on 2020 budget development. Copies of the proposed budget summary and Public Hearing Notice were also distributed for review.

Mr. Platteter made a motion and Groothousen seconded to accept Marshfield SecurityHealth's 10.2% quote increase in the City's 2020 employee health insurance premium. It was clarified that, coupled with a significant drop in the City's worker's compensation insurance premium, the City's insurance costs fall within a 3.5% increase budgeted for this purpose for 2020. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

District Two, temporarily vacant:

It was reported that Mr. Morgan decided to forego surgery and use an alternate method to treat his ambulatory issue. After having an injection he feels better and expects to be back to the Council next week. As such it will not be necessary to name a temporary replacement for him. It was also mentioned that he has lost considerable weight, which is also helping.

District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:

Mr. Groothousen expects to have Park Board minutes for the next meeting.

Motion was made by Groothousen, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to have LHS produce matching black metal fences in the spring school semester, as a cost to TIFD #8. [These fences are planned to replace those made of other materials at the following downtown locations: old bakery site; north end of former farmer's market site; Miner Plaza green space; and, Flambeau River Overlook.] It will be useful if the City can provide an up-front check to help pay for initial material purchases.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Groothousen made a motion which was seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote to authorize the All Committees to ratify a successor labor agreement with LPPA at the October 21, meeting.

Fields made a motion, which was seconded by Groothousen to contribute the City's pledge of \$20,000 to the IDC with the understanding that the latter will use it to proceed with the Gateway Pavilion project, toward which IDC itself has pledged \$30,000. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Fields reported that farmer's market vendors estimated that over 1,000 people visited the market during the Leaf it to Rusk festivities.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the Sept. 30, and Oct. 7, All Committees meetings.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds asked if there are any plans to redo Flambeau Ave., suggesting that a pulverize and reave would really help what is a terribly rough riding surface. Ayres Associates may be investigating that.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien reported that he changed how the LPD approached its annual physical agility testing, conducted recently, adding that officers seemed to have a good time with it. He was pleased with the results.

Public Works Dept. Report, Mr. D. Parker:

Mr. Parker reported the following:

- That the hydrant on the north side of Miner just west of Hwy. 27 has been moved to facilitate completion of new sidewalk there.
- That the new Corbett Lake aerators are in and operating.
- The crew is working on brush collection.
- Thanked Marty Reynolds for getting the boilers up and operating at the former armory.

Hraban made a motion and Stoneberg seconded to purchase a snowblower attachment for the Ventrac machine at a cost of \$4,588 to the 2019 PW equipment budget. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson suggested that a PW meeting be held the middle of the following week to review cost estimates for reconstruction of streets being targeted for 2020/2021, which are located in or near the downtown. Decisions need to be made soon on what financing mechanisms, grant or loan programs to pursue.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson asked if anyone had any thoughts on his request to allow IDC use of a computer and office at City Hall after he retires.

Adm. Christianson requested approve to expend up to \$200 from Fund 290 to purchase and install shelves and tool hangers in the plow museum workshop. Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Hraban to approve. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson advised that he was disappointed to learn that WDOA does not seem likely to provide a grant to undertake further planning for adaptive reuse of the former LES as a community center. That agency may be willing, however, to provide assistance to further investigate reuse of the balance of the building for workforce housing. Some of the work that needs to be done would occur with either.

Recalling how he has told the Council repeatedly that Ladysmith is the only City he is aware of that has never built a new City Hall or City shop, Adm. Christianson said he believes Ladysmith also has a good track record of refurbishing manufacturing property for a second life after it is taken for tax title or similar reasons. He cited the creamery, the Fritz Avenue plant, the Gates Avenue plant and the Meadowbrook center as examples.

Motion was made by Groothousen and seconded by Reynolds to create a façade assistance program in TIFD #9 for the balance of that District's expenditure period (Aug. 2021), which is identical in all respects to that in place in TIFD #8, except as to its effective boundaries. The entire area of TIFD #9 will, presumably, be eligible. TIFD #9 includes most of the Highway 27 corridor from south of Fresh Market to the river by the hospital and some of the in-City frontage of Hwy. 8 west of Highway 27. It was clarified that Brea Grace of SEHH is assisting the City with the following:

- Possible dissolution of TIFD #5.
 - Possible revision of TIFD #9 boundaries to remove the hospital; Marshfield Clinic; OSM residence; former Mount Senario athletic fields; North Cedar Academy; and, Wal-Mart Outlot.
 - Possible creation of new TID #12 to consist of the properties removed from TIFD #9.
- Roll call vote: Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson passed around a magazine ad for 40' long artificial roping with various decorations similar in appearance to those once suspended across Miner Ave. during the holidays. He noted they are pricy ranging from about \$2,000 to over \$8,000 per unit. Setting support poles would also be quite an endeavor. He suggested that a 40'

square of them set in the NE corner of the Gateway parking lot might recall older displays while keeping costs down. He added it might be something to consider for a future budget.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Nothing to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve the appointment of Mrs. Stoneberg to serve as the City's second representative on the Transit Board.

Mayor Christianson reported on several activities that had taken place recently:

- Main Street held a visioning session at Miner Plaza Friday, Oct. 11th. 17 or 18 attended. Discussion strayed beyond Main Street, but that isn't all bad.
- A spay and neuter fund raiser for the animal shelter was put on by former residents who are considering moving back here to retire. It was held at Worden Avenue Exchange.
- About 20 people participated in a pub crawl that was done in a responsible manner with transportation secured through ITS.
- The Harvest of Talents was well attended per Mr. Fields who was there from 7-1:30.
- A Ladysmith Middle School student is spearheading a fund raiser for the Lighthouse.

The Mayor closed his comments by saying that, although we all have our differences on many things, we need to work at common goals to help our community be what it can be and we want it to be.

Mr. Fields commented on the Feast of Tabernacles.

Closed Session:

At 6:39 p.m. motion was made by Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to go into Closed Session under authority cited in item 21) on the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Hraban, which was seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned from Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:
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