

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

November 23, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: K. Brown, A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg.

Others present: R. Barna, A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, R. Hampton, H. Helmecci, A. Lobermeier, S. Kavanagh, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, B. Marshall, D. Parker, M. Pearson, J. Pohlman, E. Van Doorn, T. Verdegan, J. West, D. Wiles.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Minutes will be approved at the next Council meeting. It was noted that one comment attributed to Mrs. Stoneberg in the draft minutes was attached to the wrong action.

Agenda:

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

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan had nothing to report.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban reported that he had attended Carol Thomas' funeral earlier in the day adding that Mrs. Thomas had been instrumental in getting the Rusk County Animal Shelter started.

District Four, Mr. K. Brown:

Mr. Brown called attention to minutes of the November 16, All Committees meeting.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the 11/16 Public Works Committee meeting.

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote, to direct Morgan & Parmley to continue design work for surface reconstruction of the 400 block of Corbett Ave. W.

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban to approve Change Order No. 1 with McCabe Construction, in the amount of \$5,155, for items added to the scope of work of the W. 8th and Roesler reconstruction project. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-no; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

It was decided that the Public Works Committee will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, November 30th to review what is included in a Morgan & Parmley proposal to do preliminary engineering for a handful of street reconstruction projects under consideration for 2016 and beyond. This may include filed tours of one or more of these.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson had nothing to report.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:

LPD Chief Lobermeier had nothing to report.

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

DPW Gorsegner reported that the Water Treatment Plant project is coming to a close with the City having having received a contributory check from SEH in the amount of \$91,697. The City now needs to pay several long standing invoices from SEH in the amounts of \$9,500; \$1,236; \$778. And one from an SEH subcontractor in the amount of \$6,000, for a total of \$17,862.59. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Brown to approve payment of these invoices. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

The one component of the new well (No.8) and WTP project that remains to be completed is demolition and removal of old Wells No. 2 and No. 3. Ron Young Plumbing plans to do that the week before Christmas.

It was reported that work on the Worden Ave. manhole rebuilding project has started.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson had nothing to report.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds briefly recessed the meeting until the budget hearing, slated for 6:45p.m.

Hearings and Appearances:

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor Reynolds convened a public hearing on the proposed 2016 general operations budget and on the 2015 real estate tax levy. Comptroller Verdegan provided a general overview of the budget proposal, reviewed debt capacity in use and available for use, and noted changes in the fund balance. Mr. Brown reviewed the proposed budget in detail. The hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m. Following are some comments, observations, and opinions offered during that hearing:

- *Taxes are up 14.2% in the draft budget.
- *Overall spending is up 5.62% in the draft budget.
- *Any tax increase is difficult for those on fixed incomes.
- *We have more than recommended in our fund balance because we haven't done what we should have.
- *The proposed tax increase is 99 cents per \$1,000 of value.
- *The 2015 tax rate was \$7.06 per \$1,000 and the proposed 2016 rate is \$8.05.
- *Combined taxes on a house from all jurisdictions will be about \$2,477.
- *I am very disappointed in this budget and the previous budget also had \$200,000 in it for street work.
- *We have to do street work at some point.
- *There has been excessive spending in the past.
- *There are things that are not needed like a new grader, a new pickup, a new chipper.
- *Public works is top heavy.
- *LPD only got 1.47 calls per 8 hours in 2014; this year its 1.32.
- *We have a good PD, but need to be more like Barron and Bloomer that do it for \$2-300,000/year less.
- *NYC spent \$421 per capita for police and Ladysmith \$420.
- *Some PW purchases were wants. Snow box liners were a good idea. A second salt box wasn't needed.
- *Wage increases are necessary.
- *Ladysmith has an extremely healthy general fund balance. Auditors recommend having 25-33% of the annual budget amount in the fund balance. We have more than that.
- *We need to go back to the fund balance one more time. This year.
- *We did a good job on this budget.
- *Almost \$800,000 has been taken out of fund balance in the past couple years, including about \$100,000 this year, which can't continue.
- *We started with \$500,000 in for street repair, but cut back to \$200,000.
- *We may be able to bond in 2017 to do more street work.
- *The general fund balance is currently \$180,000 more than recommended.
- *If LPD is getting a 3% wage increase, so should everyone else.
- *LPD was not covered by Act 10 requirements. The contract they signed was a good one under the circumstances.
- *Nobody wants to raise taxes, but facilities are failing and need replacement.
- *We have an exceptional PW Dept.
- *Many of the costly water and sewer projects the City has done recently are DNR mandated.
- *These needs are not special interest needs. The grader literally broke.

*The City has control over its own sewer rates and should exercise it. Maybe small users should be favored.

*Why do 7 of 10 of those who work in the City reside outside it?

*In 1950 most of our workforce was in agriculture. Since then, there has been a steady shift to factory work.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by Morgan to modify the revenue side of the proposed 2016 budget to reflect application of \$117,000 from the fund balance in lieu of \$117,000 of the \$166,000 in proposed tax levy increase. Motion was then made by Brown and seconded by Morgan to adopt Resolution #2015-21 to adopt the 2016 general operating budget, as attached, and to set the 2015 real estate tax levy at \$1,161,829. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-abstain; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Licenses and Permits:

None.

Adjourn:

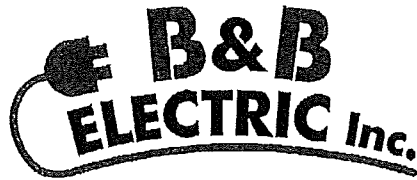
Upon motion by Morgan, which as seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned 8:12 p.m.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____



1303 Western Ave.
Eau Claire WI. 54703
(715) 832-1676 Fax (715) 832-1677
bbelec@b-belectricinc.com
www.bandbelectric.com
Equal opportunity employer

December 8, 2015

Attn: Al Christianson

RE: Ladysmith Plow Museum

Scope: Electrical quote for additional outlets. We will add a total of 8 outlets divided between three new 20 amp breakers. Also includes receptacles for the overhead doors, two per 20 amp breaker

- 200' EMT branch conduit wiring
- 10 Duplex outlets
- 2 GFCI Weatherproof outlets
- 3 20 amp breaker
- Misc. materials
- Labor

Materials and equipment	\$508.00
Labor	\$1,820.00
Total Project	\$2,328.00

Sincerely,
B&B Electric Inc.
Mark C

Wisconsin Contractors License #190008