

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
December 14, 2015 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

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

Others present: R. Carlson, P. Carow, T. Clark, A. Christianson, K. Gorseger, J. Hall, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, A. Lobermeier, S. Moore, T. Moore, D. Moss, D. Parker, E. Spooner, J. Spooner, T. Verdegan. E. Webster, and others unknown. **Did anyone know any of the others present?**

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. M. Hraban led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Brown and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the November 9 and 23, 2015 Council meetings.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Sue Moore appeared with a concern about the number of sex offenders residing in the City and asked Police Chief Lobermeier if there are about one dozen. Chief Lobermeier responded that "there are a lot more than that". Another question was raised why a couple of those originally from SE Wisconsin now reside here. Apparently that is by their own choice once initial after release residency requirements have been met. She also commended those who post information about these offenders and asked if counseling or therapy is made available to offenders. Chief Lobermeier responded that it is.

JoAnne Spooner appeared to advocate that the City join with Rusk County to provide funds sufficient to augment donations already in hand to construct a new Rusk County Animal Shelter on a site that has been prepared for that purpose along Doughty Road. She read a prepared statement, a copy of which is attached. Others including Paula Carow, Tawn Clark, Joni Hall and Erin Webster also spoke. It was noted that the Friends of the Animal Shelter and others have worked hard over a seven year period to raise \$148,600 toward a current estimated facility cost in the \$450,000 range. Mr. M. Hraban explained to the group what the process is for getting monies set aside in an annual City budget. This discussion concluded at 7:22 p.m.

Ray Carlson appeared briefly to request permission to prepare an annual summary of efforts involving Corbett Lake. Once prepared he will present it to the Council and request permission to forward it to DNR and SEH, and to place it on the City's website.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan was absent.

Comptroller T. Verdegan appeared to explain that the City has a cash in lieu of health insurance option available to exempt employees. Per legal advice, if this benefit is retained it needs to be incorporated into the City's Section 125 Plan to comply with IRS regulations. Once the cash in lieu of health insurance option is part of the Section 125 Plan, IRS Section 125 non-discrimination rules would apply to the benefit, so it needs to be offered to all employees rather than just to exempt employees. After some debate, motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Brown to incorporate the benefit into the City's Section 125 plan and to offer the benefit to all employees. Roll call vote: Platteter-no; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-no; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-no; Pearson-yes. Tie vote. Mayor Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by M. Hraban to approve expenditure of \$2,328 to have B&B Electric add 8 convenience outlets at the plow museum along with power to the four overhead door openers. Roll call vote: Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-no; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban had nothing to report.

District Four, Mr. K. Brown:

Mr. Brown called attention to minutes of the December 7, All Committees meeting.

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

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban reported on the Public Works Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. Among items discussed were preparation of plans for rebuilding Summit Ave., albeit without curb and gutter; purchase of a newer trailer mounted air compressor; and, Corbett Lake dredging.

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban to approve expenditure of \$20,350 from the 2016 street budget to have Morgan and Parmley prepare pavement designs for portions of 1st St. S., Phillips Ave., E. 4th St. S., E. 6th St. N., and Adams Ave. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hraban made a motion and M. Hraban seconded to approve Application for Payment No. 3 from McCabe Construction, in the amount of \$141,025.14, for work completed on the W. 8th and Roesler project. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hraban made a motion which was seconded by Brown to hire a temporary worker for the Water Dept. through the holiday period when some regular workers will be using remaining vacation. The specific person was a 2015 summer worker who has 5 weeks of time remaining available without exceeding the 599 hour limit. It is hoped this worker can be paired with a regular worker to install automatic read water meters. Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Brown and carried by voice vote to approve.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Referring to the November 18, Police and Fire meeting Mrs. Pearson reported that, on January 26th from 6-9, the Ladysmith Family Restaurant will hold a fundraiser, which will benefit both LPD and LFD. And, referring to the December 8, Library Board meeting she reported that a focus of that meeting was possible purchase of new or upgraded security equipment to thwart increasing theft and to monitor areas of the library used by children.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:

Referring to the November 18, Police and Fire Commission minutes, Mayor Reynolds asked Chief Lobermeier why the appropriation of \$1,000 from LPD to the Rusk Co. canine program. Chief Lobermeier replied that amount came from about \$8,000 of donations, still on hand, which had been given in support of the City's canine program.

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

DPW Gorseger reported that efforts are underway to remove equipment from retired City wells #2 and #3.

The DPW also advised that, like residential and other commercial buildings, City facilities are also subject to the State's cross connection control program. He then reviewed certified inspections for some City facilities and Proposals to furnish and install needed devices. Motion was then made by Brown and seconded by A. Hraban to approve a Proposal from Bartingale Mechanical to replace flush valves with backflow compliant

Sloan valves in an east side restroom and the basement restroom at City Hall for \$725; to install a 1 1/2" vacuum breaker in the City garage for the truck fill station for \$776; and, to install a 1 1/2" vacuum breaker in the in the old fire hall cleaning station truck fill for \$302. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to pay back taxes of \$581.57 on property at 311 Sabin Ave. W. as a cost to TIFD #9. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve Application for Payment No. 3 from S D Ellenbecker, in the amount of \$50,296.50, for work on the plow museum. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-no; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of \$3,241.48 to Meyer Lumber for material used on the plow museum. Roll call vote: Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Brown and seconded by A. Hraban to authorize seeking volunteers and donations to expand holiday displays provided, however, that volunteers sign prepared statements indicating that have read the statements and understand that they are not covered by City insurance during the course of volunteering for this purpose.

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by M. Hraban to approve payment of Invoice No. 10 from MSA, in the amount of \$8,957.60, for construction services through Nov. 21st on the W. 8th and Roesler project. Spring site restoration is all that remains. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to pay \$2,512.77 in back taxes on the former Finish Line tavern as a cost to TIFD #8. The closing statement provided for City payment. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson reported that Xcel Energy's project to rebuild Structure 50 in Pioneer Park has been pushed back to mid-May.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

License and Permits:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve tavern operator's licenses for Robert P. Barron, Keith M. Rudesill and David A. Hibbard, all for Holiday Stationstore.

Motion was made by Brown, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a tavern operator's license for Kristine L. Bentley for Dollar General contingent upon LPD approval.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:
Mayor Reynolds

Motion was made by Stoneberg seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the attached roster of election workers for 2016/2017.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to cancel the December 21, January 4 and January 18, All Committee meetings unless something comes up that requires any of them be held.

Motion was made by Brown, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to cancel the December 28, Council meeting unless something comes up that requires it be held.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded by Brown and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:
Date submitted: _____
Date published: _____