

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
February 12, 2018 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

**Roll Call.** Members present: R. Moore, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: A. Hraban, M. Hraban.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mrs. Stoneberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2018, Council meeting with a reference to Mr. M. Hraban being present to be removed.

**Agenda:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda.

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Ray Carlson appeared to request approval of the Annual Summary for the Year 2017-relating to actions taken pursuant to the Corbett Lake Management. Upon approval he will submit copies to WDNR at both Spooner and Rhinelander, and to SEH. Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by Moore and carried by voice vote to approve.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

None.

**District and Committee Reports:**

**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter advised that the Library Board will meet on February 13th.

**District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:**

Mr. Morgan made a motion, which was seconded by Stoneberg to approve purchase of four display cases for use in directing visitors between the community's various rail displays; the cost of \$120 each to come from the 2018 City Council grants and aids line. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Morgan advised that he had reviewed the recent Outdoor Recreation Plan update and hopes that the Park Board will meet soon to make sure 2018 efforts will begin on a timely basis.

Mr. Morgan advised that he had missed the recent Highway Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Gorsegner, who did attend, stated that discussion focused on County purchase of liquid de-icing equipment, adding that the City should keep tabs on that trial.

**District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban was absent.

**District Four, Mr. R. Moore:**

Mr. Moore advised that he plans to wait until Mr. M. Hraban returns to call a Finance meeting.

**District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:**

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report. Mayor Reynolds called attention to recent legislation enacted by the Wisconsin legislature, which places significant restrictions on usage of conditional use permits by local governments. He suggested that the Legal Affairs Committee, which Mrs. Stoneberg chairs, review these changes and suggest a course of action for the City.

**District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban was absent.

**District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:**

Mrs. Pearson had nothing to report.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:**

Chief Julien reported that each of the four departments that were benefitted by Ladysmith Family Restaurant's annual fundraiser received checks for \$2,252. LPD plans to use those dollars to help with the cost of switching from .40 caliber pistols to 9mm pistols.

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

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Pearson to approve purchase from the 2018 PW equipment budget line of a tail gate lift for a 2017 pickup. The \$3,037.50 cost will be reduced by a \$1,009 grant from the City's insurance company. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

DPW Gorsegner commented on changes in how the City deals with frozen water services. The City is obligated to help customers who have an issue for the first time try to resolve it. Customers on a list of addresses that have previously experienced problems receive letters in the fall suggesting what they can do, such as run a stream of water, but adding that they are then on their own if they do freeze up. It is known to be difficult to

find plumbers/others to thaw frozen services. It can take considerable time and so cost a good deal. There have been several freeze ups already this winter.

In years past cities often used welders to thaw frozen services, but this led to considerable liability as this practice resulted in a number of homes being burned down around the State. These were often neighboring houses rather than those with the frozen pipes.

DPW Gorsegner advised that both current (70-72") frost depths and water temps at hydrants are posted on the City's website. When temps fall below 35 degrees it is probably a good idea for those who have experienced problems in the past to run a stream of water from a little used faucet, although customers will have to pay for that water use.

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Morgan to approve Payment No. 1 to Verdegan Construction, in the amount of \$19,194, for work completed on City Hall remodeling. Roll call vote: Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

**Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:**

Adm. Christianson requested approval of Inv. #5 from MSA, in the amount of \$4,500, for 2016 CDBG administration. Motion was made by Pearson and seconded by Moore to approve. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Moore-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Pearson and seconded by Moore to approve Payment of MSA Inv. #3, in the amount of \$3,375 and MSA Inv. #5, in the amount of \$2,250, both for SDWLP administration. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson reviewed the status of Ladysmith's public facility infrastructure, noting the following:

- With 31.5 miles of street, 35 miles of sanitary sewer, and 40 miles of water main, rebuilds need to continue.
- The annual freeze thaw cycle makes rebuilds more frequent and more costly than in many parts of the nation.
- Main replacements in the downtown are particularly challenging as some are over 100 years old and disrupting traffic for extended periods would be hard on businesses.
- Key facilities such as water towers, sewer trunk mains, lift stations, wastewater and water treatment plants are all in very good to excellent condition, many having been updated in the past 3-5 years.

Mr. Morgan noted that, while there are other streets in need of rebuilds, like the 300 block of Lake Ave. E., that the targeted portions of Fritz and Worden Avenues are both heavily traveled and in very poor condition.

**Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:**

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

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

Mayor Reynolds picked up where Adm. Christianson left off by noting that the Federal infrastructure program is being proposed to consist of 20% Federal monies to be combined with 80% State and local monies. The State is not expected to be in position to provide much, if any, help in view of the huge commitment that has been made to Foxconn. The Mayor went on to say that most communities are likely in similar positions to Ladysmith. As such it concerns him that tax increases would be needed to do such rebuilds. Mr. Carlson, who is retired, noted that he couldn't pay significantly higher real estate taxes.

Mayor Reynolds also mentioned that Council members need to resist being overly influenced by coffee shop talk that is often misinformed or at least poorly informed.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to grant tavern operators licenses to the following, contingent upon LPD approval:

- Ross D. Libbey for 211 Club.
- Dylan Skogstad for Holiday #176.

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to approve tavern operator's licenses for the following:

- Janice Hamilton for Gordy's County Market.
- Jacob Ewer and Reanna Cooper for Krist Oil.

**Closed Session:**

At 7:55 p.m. motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Moore to go into closed session under authority granted in S. 19.85 (1) (g) Wis. Stats. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

**Return to Open Session:**

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to return to open session.

**Action on Closed Session Item:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to find that Wal Mart's Claim for Excessive Taxation is without merit and is, therefore, disallowed, and to direct Atty. Kenyon to send a letter to the complainant's representative advising of same. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-absent; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-absent; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned 8:07 p.m.

Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_