

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF
THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**

Monday, February 22, 2021 5:15 pm Rusk County Board Room

Members Present: M. Platteter, B. Groothousen, G. Schueller, J. Kenyon, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds (Absent: B. Morgan) Mayor K. Vacho

Others present: K. Gorsegner, A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, S. Kavanagh, D. Parker, K. Julien, John Pohlman, III, Ray Carlson, Kyle Gibbs. On-line: Cindy Pohlman.

Call to order. Mayor K. Vacho called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Roll Call. Clerk Kavanagh took roll call and a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Gerard Schueller.

Minutes and Agenda. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Kenyon, to approve the February 8, 2021 Council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Public appearances. Ray Carlson asked council members to discuss future improvements they would like to see done in the next 10 years at Corbett Lake. He also updated members on upcoming projects at the rail display.

District 1, Platteter. Nothing to report.

District 2, Morgan. Absent.

District 3, Groothousen. B. Groothousen thanked John Terrill for his donation of signage, benches and gravel for the Greenwood Park trail system. Mr. Terrill is donating the materials and the City will provide the labor for these improvements.

2021 Veteran's Mural Projects. Motion by B. Groothousen, seconded by J. Kenyon, to advertise availability of 34 veteran's portraits at Centennial Square in downtown Ladysmith and 20 veteran's portraits at the Hwy 8 location (across from Ace Home Center) at a cost of \$500 per portrait, along with relocating existing murals, as need be. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Vintage Light Poles. Motion by B. Groothousen, seconded by M. Reynolds, to purchase 30 vintage style light poles (15 white, 15 red) at a cost of \$6,195.00 plus freight costs to be funded by TIF #8. M. Platteter-yes, B. Groothousen-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. Kenyon-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion passes.

District 4, Schueller. The Library Board met on February 9, 2021 and continued to discuss issues with moisture in the lower level of the library and how to correct the problem. There was also discussion on how to proceed with remedying these issues, both on the interior and exterior of the building. Consensus was that the City/County Joint Management Board should meet with the Library Board to improve communication regarding these needed repairs and how to move forward.

District 5, Kenyon. Nothing to report.

District 6, Hraban. Nothing to report.

District 7, Reynolds. Nothing to report.

Adm. Christianson thanked Mr. Reynolds for being willing to go over to the Community Center on a Sunday morning in order to restore heat to the building.

Police and Fire Report. Fire Chief Gibbs reported that the Police & Fire Commission approved an hourly wage increase for all volunteer firefighters beginning the 2nd Quarter of 2021 from \$16/hr to \$17/hr. He reported that it has been 3 years since their hourly wage has been increased and the current 2021 budget will cover this wage increase.

Police Chief Julien presented the 2020 Annual Report with comments as follows:

- They have investigated more drug-related cases (meth) in the last 6 months than they have had in the last 2 years.
- The 2020 PD budget included a “late in the year” purchase of a new Spillman records management software system at a cost of \$56,666.00 but they were still able to return \$12,540 back to the general fund.
- Domestic abuse investigations spiked in 2020.
- “Drugged” driving seems to be a trending issue and the LPD will continue to make traffic enforcement a priority.
- New tires were purchased for the squads but no major repairs were incurred in 2020.

Public Works Report. DPW Gorsegner shared that the State of Wisconsin bid out the US Hwy 8 mill/repave project and since the bids came back higher than expected, the project will be rebid in June with hopes of still getting the project completed by the end of this year.

The 5 Downtown Street project bid opening is scheduled for Friday, February 26 at 11:00 am in the Council Chambers and a Special Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 1 to approve the winning bid.

Well 6 rehab project will begin the week of March 1 with materials being delivered and then repair work should begin on March 8th with the permanent pump installed by March 15th.

Frost levels are at a depth (60” at the deepest spot and 35 degree water temps) that if your water service has frozen in the past, you might consider running a stream of water to prevent frozen service pipes. Another water main break was reported this morning which makes it the 6th one this winter.

The Lacrosse Tribune published an article recently about salt usage on municipal streets. After surveying many Wisconsin municipalities, the minimum level of salt usage per lane mile of streets was 5.5 tons and the maximum level of salt usage per lane mile was 18.8 tons.

Ladysmith’s salt usage was at 6.14 tons per lane mile.

Administrator's Report. Marshfield Clinic has exercised their option to purchase the former Mt Senario football field and softball field for the purchase price of \$680,000. A joint Community Development/Youth & Rec committee meeting needs to be scheduled sometime next week-preferably Thursday to discuss recreational needs that could be funded with these sale proceeds.

The Planning Commission should be meeting soon to review and discuss the draft TIF proposals. At the next regular council meeting on March 8, a proposal was received from an architect/developer interested in the former elementary school and they would like to present that proposal to the council in a closed session at the beginning of the meeting.

Attorney's Report. League of Municipalities reported that \$195 billion would be sent to state governments for COVID related relief and \$130 billion would be awarded to cities/counties; Wisconsin is scheduled to receive \$5.7 billion of which \$2.5 billion will go to local governments but the grant cannot exceed 75% of the 2019 budget.

Licenses and Permits. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve operator licenses for Rene Miniatt (pending PD approval) and Adam Beckman and a Direct Seller's Permit for Job Enterprises d/b/a Kirby of Eau Claire. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor's Forum. Nothing to report.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban to adjourn at 6:32 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk