

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
March 26, 2018 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, R. Moore, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorseger, Frank Herbes, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, John and Cindy Pohlman, Melissa Rudack, J. West, D. Wierzba.

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 Moore, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Mayor Reynolds convened a Public Hearing on the ongoing 2016 CDBG assisted project, calling on Dave Wierzba from MSA Professional Services to review that project and respond to questions or comments. Mr. Wierzba explained that the project involves reconstruction of portions of E. 8th St. S., Center and Pederson Avenues. Underground work was largely completed last fall along with new sidewalk where it is being installed. Some curb and gutter work and asphalt paving remain to be completed this spring. There is some uncertainty how far below finished grade these streets are at present. There were no public appearances and the Hearing was closed.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter distributed copies of a Library Director's report issued March 13th. He then called attention to minutes of the March 19, Youth and Recreation meeting.

Current Little League President Frank Herbes described deteriorating conditions at local baseball and softball fields. He noted that, while repainting dugouts may suffice, that backstops and outfield fencing at most locations are in rough shape. He also noted that newer facilities elsewhere are using less costly and more forgiving netting in lieu of chain

link fence that was the standard not so long ago. He went on to outline a redevelopment plan the first steps of which he believes are to provide good equipment storage buildings, dedicated infield drags for three fields, and used garden tractors to pull those drags. Mayor Reynolds and Mr. M. Hraban, who both previously served as Little League presidents, noted that the Youth and Rec Committee hadn't been provided a budget such that funding to meet the identified needs will need to come from fund balance if they are to be provided this year. In years ahead monies will need to be budgeted to continue with the upgrade plan.

Mr. West asked if Little League has approached small to medium sized businesses about contributions, noting that larger employers who were hit by the recession have reduced such giving in recent years. Mr. Herbes advised that while he hasn't had time available to do so in the past he hopes to be able to do more of that going forward.

Mr. Morgan advised that area Mennonites are interested in doing volunteer work on ball fields. Mr. Gorsegner advised that WITC may assist with construction of 10'x12' storage sheds.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve expenditure of \$15,000 from general fund balance to cover the cost of the following for 2018 ball field use:

- \$10,000 to repair existing or provide new storage sheds at each of three in-City fields (Christman Field, Strop Field and adjacent field, MSC field). These should have o.h. doors in one end to allow garden tractors, drags and smaller equipment to be kept at each. Camp Flambeau may also be interested in building them.
- \$4,000 to buy and infield and baseline drags to keep at each of three in-City fields to eliminate a need for coaches to find and trailer them between fields, load and unload.
- \$1,000 to buy up to three (one for each site) used garden tractors (to pull drags) unless donated units are found.

Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Discussion turned to deep gullies that form at Wagon Bridge Landing off Highway G after rains. Mr. Moore noted these gullies are so hazardous that, if they aren't repaired, the popular landing should be closed. Mr. Morgan raised concerns about new paving also being undercut suggesting French drains as a possible improvement. DPW Gorsegner replied that, after some reshaping, Monarch Paving will form blacktop curbs to direct storm and melt water. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to have Monarch pave the Wagon Bridge Landing access drive at a cost of \$13,325 for purposes of reducing erosion and related repair costs; \$10,000 of this is budgeted and \$3,325 will be taken from the PW budget. [No other bids were received.] Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Platteter and seconded by M. Hraban to have Camp Flambeau brush/widen Riverview Trail, for which \$1,300 was budgeted. Brush continually encroaches eventually making trail use hazardous. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to authorize Rusk Co. color guard to use drill hall at former armory for practices until another use is in place.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan advised that, while most work on the new Lake Avenue Rail Display is completed, that the vintage rail vehicles that will be displayed need to be lettered. It was also mentioned that the baggage cart that was to be part of the display will not fit within it such that it will be returned to the visitor center where it was prior to being damaged in the 2002 tornado.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban reported that both the Joint Management Committee and the Rusk County Tourism Committee will meet on March 27th.

Mr. Hraban also advised that he had participated in an active shooter training exercise that he found very useful and suggested that, perhaps, the Council should hold such training.

It was mentioned that Phil Ruege has over 30 sponsors for the "Chalkfest" he is spearheading and that abutting owners have indicated their consent for use of sidewalks he selected.

District Four, Mr. R. Moore:

Mr. Moore called attention to minutes of the March 12, Finance meeting, which focused on allowable uses of room tax revenues.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg highlighted items considered at the March 16, Legal Affairs meeting. Most of these will be considered further at a future meeting.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban commented on the Public Works Committee meeting held March 21st. It was suggested that a Monarch Paving rep be invited to a Public Work Committee meeting to view those portions of Fritz and Worden Avenues proposed to be rebuilt to see if such rep might have ideas on how to approach these particular streets. It was also suggested that E. 2nd St. might be looked at the same time.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

It was clarified that Mr. Klink will take a photo of Ladysmith Family Restaurant owner Heimie Sabani, along with an LPD/LFD/EMS rep, by way of recognizing that firm's annual fundraiser in support of these public services. Motion was made by Pearson seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to thank the Family Restaurant appropriately.

Mrs. Pearson indicated LFD is anxious to have the Finance Committee decide what is to become of \$8,500 received from sale of the recently retired tanker.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien had nothing to report.

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

The DPW had nothing to report. Mr. Morgan thanked the crew for picking up the insulated blanket placed last fall over curing concrete at the Lake Ave. Rail Display.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson noted the passing of long-time Dep. Clerk-treasurer Norma Anderson.

Without providing details, Adm. Christianson noted he is optimistic about the number of building upgrades seemingly under consideration for the downtown area. He did say that the first of these was a copper colored metal facing added to the awning at Berg's Auto Body. He said this is a welcome spurt of interest as downtown has been somewhat dormant since the beginning of the recession [about one decade ago].

Adm. Christianson also noted a renewed request from Impact Seven to reduce the PILOT payment made on its apartments at 1200 Baker Ave. from \$12,000 annually to \$4,920 to include a rebate of the payment made this year.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds commented on the Tourism Commission meeting held March 22nd. He noted that, because room tax dollars were errantly passed along to the Chamber of Commerce for similar purposes this year, the Tourism Commission will acquiesce to that and direct only \$15,000 to two new events; a rodeo being planned for Rusk County Fair weekend, and the Gravel Grinder bike race being planned for September 8th.

A question was raised whether guest houses, such as so-called airbnbs, are or should be subject to room taxes. With their recently popularity it doesn't appear they are subject to any regulations at this time.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a tavern operator's license for Karen Seaman for Holiday.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Moore and carried by voice vote to approve a change of agent for Veteran's Memorial Association to Robert Lincoln.

Closed Session:

At 7:35 p.m. motion was made by Moore and seconded by A. Hraban to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned from closed session at about 7:50 p.m.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:
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