

## COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

**Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**5:15pm**

**Ladysmith Fire Hall**

**Members Present:** Mayor Robert Grotzinger, Richard Ostenso, Nathan Johnson, Mike Hraban, Al Christianson, Steve Weiss, Al Hraban. **Absent:** John Hoover.

**Others Present:** Al Christianson, Kurt Gorseger, Doug Parker, Patrick Rowe, Sara Nelson, Terry Carter, Luke Klink, Chief Kyle Gibbs, Boy Scout Troop 45, Greg Wagner, Leroy Opsal, Cheyene Makinia, Audrey Thompson, James West, Tom Jarstad.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Grotzinger called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

**Roll Call:** Clerk Nelson took roll call and a quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Mr. Hraban.

**Minutes and Agenda:** Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Common Council Minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Introduction of Guest, Public Hearings, Comments:**

**Leroy Opsal to address Council regarding properties located in the City.** Leroy reported that he addressed the Council back in February regarding properties located in the City with an accumulation of trash. Leroy stated that property has made significant progress in their cleanup. He presented additional photos to the Council for various other properties and requested follow-up.

Audrey Thompson addressed the Council with the similar concerns. Audrey Thompson stated landlords should be held more accountable.

**Greg Wagner to address Council regarding ordinance related to Radio or Television Antenna Towers.** Greg addressed the Council regarding a property within the City who appeared to be in violation of the above referenced ordinance. Mayor Grotzinger stated the matter would be looked into further.

Tom Jarstad appeared before the Council representing the Alano Club. The organization provides a meeting place for support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Overeaters Anonymous, and others. Currently they are addressing the issue of potentially needing a roof replacement and seeking contributions. Dr. Weiss thanked Mr. Jarstad for the work that he does and spoke in favor of the organization. Dr. Weiss questioned the cost of the project. Mr. Jarstad stated they were going to get additional estimates.

**District One – R. Ostenso:** Nothing to report.

**District Two – N. Johnson:** N. Johnson acknowledged Boy Scout Troop 45 that was attending the Council meeting and thanked them.

**Discussion and possible action on grant to assist with downtown marketing during Miner Ave Construction.** Cheyene Makinia was recently at a Tourism Conference and reported there is a sales promotion grant available to the City. The deadline to apply is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There is a 90-day waiting period to use the funds, which would end up being July-August. These funds would be used to promote the downtown area during Miner Ave reconstruction. Admn Christianson thanked her for taking the initiative and coming to present to the Council. Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to approve grant filing with downtown marketing during Miner Ave Construction. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

**District Three – M. Hraban:** M. Hraban reported they are trying to finalize plans for the addition on the Animal Shelter. The next meeting is April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mayor Grotzinger questioned anticipated maintenance costs from the new addition.

**District Four – A. Christianson:** A. Christianson questioned if it was time to review the functions of current committees; what should/could they be doing different. A. Christianson acknowledged the amount of misinformation social media generates; hoping the new website will help provide more accurate and up to date information to the public.

**Review and possible approval of concrete bid for Farmer’s Market.** Admn Christianson stated that when Verdegan’s Construction submitted the bid for the new pavilion it did not include a concrete floor. The concrete floor will have a brushed finish and be level with the current asphalt. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve low bid from DC Crete in the amount of \$11,900 for floor at Farmer’s Market Pavilion. Motion passed by roll call vote. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**District Five – S. Weiss:** Nothing to report.

**District Six – A. Hraban:**

**Review and possible approval of \$2,000 MSA Urban Forestry Grant Proposal.** D. Parker reported this would be an IRA grant from the DNR to look at urban forestry in the downtown area and parks. Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by A. Christianson to approve \$2,000 MSA Urban Forestry Grant Proposal. Motion passed by roll call vote. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**District Seven – J. Hoover:** Absent.

**Police and Fire Report:** Admn Christianson thanked the Fire Department for the use of the Fire Hall for the recent Easter Egg Hunt. He reported they had a good turnout for the event. Chief Gibbs reported they did not have any update on the new fire truck. Once the information is available, he will provide that to the Administrator.

**Public Works Report:**

**Discussion and possible approval of Haas quote to deliver pulverized asphalt from Miner Ave**

**to the Industrial Park storage site for \$9.00/yard. Approximately 1600 yards.** DPW Gorsegner reported the pulverized asphalt works really well when used in alleys. Would be stored at the end of Meadowbrook Road on the north end. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve Haas to deliver pulverized asphalt from Miner Ave to Industrial Park storage site for \$9.00/yard. Approximately 1600 yards. Motion passed by roll call vote. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Administrator's Report:**

**Discussion and possible approval of Haas quote for \$2,000.00 to pulverize the Community Center Driveway from E 6th St to Christman Ballfield parking lot.** Admn Christianson reported that this would take place the same time the Miner Ave project was being completed. Everything would be uniform and be paved at the same time as the Community Center after construction is completed. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve Haas quote of \$2,000 to pulverize the Community Center Driveway from E 6<sup>th</sup> St to Christman Ball field parking lot. Motion passed by roll call vote. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Discussion and possible approval of Monarch quote to repave the Community Center Driveway from E 6th St to Christman Ballfield parking lot.** Terry Carter questioned the use of the ball field. DPW Gorsegner reported that the ballfield is being rebuilt. DPW Gorsegner reported this parking lot will also be used for the new playground and skatepark. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve Monarch quote of \$53,658.32 to repave the Community Center driveway from E 6<sup>th</sup> St through Christman Ball field parking lot. Motion passed by roll call vote. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Discussion and possible action on request for consideration of funds for ALANO Club project.** Admn Christianson asked the Council to review the letter provided by Mr. Jarstad for discussion at future Council meeting. Mayor Grotzinger stated additional information would be needed.

Admn Christianson reported that the new playground equipment that will be located at the community center was delivered. It arrived in covered trailers. He noted that they are still seeking donations for other areas, but the playground and skatepark are funded.

**Attorney's Report:** Attorney Rowe reported that he had a draft regarding the No Wake Zone that he would be submitting to the DNR for approval. Joe Baye asked if this would eliminate the ability for people to waterski. A. Christianson stated this part of the river is not utilized for that. R. Ostenso questioned who has the ultimate authority to approve and enforce the No Wake Zone. Attorney Rowe stated DNR must approve draft to move further with creation.

**License and Permits:**

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by R. Ostenso to approve operator license for S. Austin – Krist Food Mart. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by A. Hraban to approve operator license for J. Bland – Krist Food Mart. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Mayor's Forum:** Mayor Grotzinger reported that after seeing some comments on social media, he reached out to a local resident and met with them in person on Friday. He reported that the meeting went well and they were able to have lengthy discussion. Recommended Council take same approach.

**Closed Session:** Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to go into closed session under authority granted in Wis Stat. 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats. to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to wit; to discuss TIF developer agreement for commercial property with possible action. Motion passed by roll call vote. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to return to open session. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Return to Open Session: Discussion/Action as may be necessary or appropriate on matters discussed in closed session.** Mayor Grotzinger reported Council agreed to enter into Developer's Agreement with Jim West, with cost to not exceed \$200,000.

**Closed Session:** Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to go into closed session under authority granted in Wis Stat. 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats. to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to wit; to review response to RFP for Worden Avenue project with possible action. Motion passed by roll call vote. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to return to open session. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

**Return to Open Session: Discussion/Action as may be necessary or appropriate on matters discussed in closed session.** Mayor Grotzinger reported the Council rejected RFP response for Worden Ave project.

**Closed Session.** Motion by A. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to go into Closed Session under authority granted in S. 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats. to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to wit; to consider purchase, sale, trade or lease of various industrial properties and at what prices, and possible action thereon. Motion passed by roll call vote. S. Weiss-yes. A. Hraban-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. 6-yes. 0-no.

3.25.24 Common Council Minutes

No action taken.

**Adjourn:** Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by A. Hraban to adjourn at 7:37pm. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Nelson, City Clerk