

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

Monday, March 8, 2021 5:15 pm Rusk County Board Room

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

Others present: K. Gorsegner, A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, S. Kavanagh, D. Parker, K. Julien, John Pohlman, III, Sean O'Brien of Northpoint Development Corp, Jonathan Brinkley, Precedent Architecture. 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 Al Hraban.

Minutes and Agenda. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Kenyon, to approve the February 22, 2021 and March 1, 2021 Council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Public appearances. No public appearances.

Closed Session. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by B. Groothousen, to allow John Pohlman, III to remain in attendance for the closed session and to approve going into closed session under authority granted in S. 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats., for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, as long as competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: specifically to discuss possible action on developer proposal for old elementary school and acquisition of blighted downtown property. B. Morgan-yes, B. Groothousen-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. Kenyon-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by J. Kenyon, seconded by A. Hraban to reconvene into open session at 6:08 pm.

Mayor Vacho reported that the council did take action to select Northpoint Development Corp as the exclusive developer of the former elementary school project so they can begin their due diligence with a 7-yes, 0-no vote.

District 1, Platteter. Nothing to report. Adm Christianson advised that the Industrial Development Corporation will be meeting next Wednesday (March 17) to discuss the Farmer's Market pavilion.

District 2, Morgan. At the next council meeting, Mr. Morgan will be presenting a list of projects that need to be completed at the rail display and the costs involved. The contractor that worked at the Ladysmith Fire Hall last fall, is concerned that the foundation blocks may not have been filled with concrete. The Property Committee Meeting will be meeting next Wednesday, March 17, at 5:15 pm in the City Council Chambers to discuss what to do with the former public works building.

District 3, Groothousen. B. Groothousen asked that all review the minutes of the March 4, 2021 Community Development/Youth & Rec minutes which included recommendations and ideas for possible use of funds from the Marshfield Clinic Health Systems sale. The administrator will be presenting the specific recommendations during his report.

District 4, Schueller. The Library Board will be meeting on March 9 to continue discussion of repair and maintenance issues at the Rusk County Community Library.

District 5, Kenyon. Nothing to report.

District 6, Hraban. Nothing to report.

District 7, Reynolds. M. Reynolds mentioned to Sean O'Brien of Northpoint Development that there continues to be heating issues at the former elementary school; currently the boiler system is being monitored on a daily basis to ensure it is still operating.

Police and Fire Report. Chief Julien reported an ongoing investigation but wasn't able to give any specifics at this time.

Public Works Report. Motion by B. Morgan, seconded by J. Kenyon, to approve April 12, 2021 as the public hearing date for the 2021 Downtown Reconstruction projects (Lake Ave, 1st St, E 2nd St, W 3rd St and W 4th St). Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The street design includes curb/gutter (east side) and curb/gutter/sidewalk (west side) on 4th Street and questions were raised whether that can be revised. The City received grant funding points due to specific pre-planning done for adding curb & gutter on the east side and curb/gutter/sidewalks on the west side of 4th Street. If any revisions were made to this plan at this time, grant funding would most likely be lost.

Administrator's Report. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to purchase 23 high bay fixtures with directional LED bulbs and 8 (2 bulb) fixtures with LED tubes from Ziegler Electric not to exceed \$5,000 for installation in the Community Center gymnasium. B. Groothousen-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. Kenyon-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-yes. Motion carries.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by J. Kenyon, to approve the purchase of 4 aluminum telescoping bleachers (with 30 person seating capacity each) not to exceed \$6,000 for use in the gymnasium/activity room in the former elementary school. G. Schueller-yes, J. Kenyon-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-yes, B. Groothousen-yes. Motion carries.

There will be a Planning Commission meeting on March 9, 2021 to review proposed TIF districts and consideration of a Tiny Home Ordinance.

Attorney's Report. The US Senate passed the COVID Relief bill which includes \$65 billion in aid for municipalities. A case involving big box retailers (Lowes/Walmart) suing the Village of Plover claiming over taxation due to the "dark store" loophole lost its case at the Circuit Court

level, lost at the Court of Appeals level and the WI Supreme Court declined to hear the case which is good news for municipalities and bad news for the big box stores.

Licenses and Permits. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve the Direct Seller's Permit for Baroka's Wreaths. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote. Motion by J. Kenyon, seconded by M. Reynolds, to approve the Operator License (pending PD approval) for Erica Williams. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor's Forum. Nothing to report.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban to adjourn at 6:44 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk