

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

March 9, 2020

5:15 p.m.

Council Chamber

Roll Call.

Members present: B. Groothousen, A. Hraban, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: J. Fields.

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

Call to Order:

Acting Mayor Hraban called the meeting to order and served as chair. He announced that he will retain his right to vote as District Six Alderman.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Stoneberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 24, Council meeting.

Agenda:

Motion was made by Hraban seconded by Groothousen and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda, with item 17) a. to immediately follow this action.

Appearances:

Attention was called to a couple public hearings upcoming on March 23.

Engineer Zech Gotham from Morgan and Parmley provided a detailed review of the process whereby WDNR has made an initial review of the City's Intent to Apply for both Clean Water Fund (CWF) assistance with sanitary sewer replacement and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) assistance with water main replacement relative to portions of the 5 downtown area streets: Lake Ave.; 1st St.; E. 2nd St.; W. 4rd St.; and, W. 4th St. He noted that while each is eligible for low interest loan assistance, competitive scoring places these projects near the cutoff where "principal forgiveness", which is like a grant, may or may not also be provided depending on how far WDNR's funding stretches. If approved, these CWF and SDWLP loans/grants will cover the cost of main replacements and repair of these streets.

Mr. Gotham went on to review the status of plan preparation for the above-mentioned projects, noting the deadlines by which these plans and complete applications need to be filed. Work needs to be started now to meet those deadlines. The same plans will be submitted with an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assistance for the same streets. If awarded, the CDBG assistance will be used for project components not covered by CWF or SDWLP, which include sidewalk, curb and gutter.

Mr. Morgan stated that, in his opinion, plans to rebuild W. 4th St. between Corbett and Fritz Avenues amount to “overkill”. He stated that there is a single water service off the main and that the City has examples of street rebuilds that turned out just fine without sidewalk, curb and gutter. Mr. Gotham countered that there are two services off the undersized (4”) water main and that 6” main is the minimum size for new construction. Mr. Gotham also stated that sidewalk will provide a complete off-street pedestrian path to the library and that curb and gutter extends adjoining pavement life.

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Groothousen to approve Engineering Letter Agreement Addendum #2 with Morgan and Parmley, in the amount of \$140,000. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Carlson appeared to request placement of rail display considerations on the next Community Development Committee agenda. He noted the City has some rail artifacts still sitting in MN.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve a Direct Seller’s Permit for Baroka’s Wreaths to sell memorial silk flowers and saddles from May 1- June 30, along the east side of Hwy. 27 between Lake and Miner Avenues. Jean Baroka is the responsible person and a Certificate of Liability Insurance has been provided.

Motion was made by Reynolds seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve an operator’s license for Jennifer Leanne Carter contingent upon LPD approval.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Hraban to adopt Resolution #2020-02 to terminate Tax Incremental Finance District #5, of the City of Ladysmith. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter advised that the Library Board will meet March 10, at 5 p.m.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Reynolds made a motion and Stoneberg seconded to contract with Rhoads Heating replace two ceiling-hung heaters at the fire hall with new units with stainless steel heat exchangers, at a cost of \$9,524.40. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Morgan made a motion, which was seconded to approve having Conrath Fabrication make and install four hoods to protect three A/C units and the gas meter at Westlake Enterprises lease space from snow and ice slide damage. These will be paid for from Westlake rents. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

It was also reported that there are ongoing problems with heating equipment at the fire hall, which is now about 17 years old.

Mr. Morgan asked that discussion of mowing and curbs be placed on the next Public Works agenda. He also asked how the new PW employee is doing to which DPW Gorsegner replied "fine".

District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:

Mr. Groothousen advised that the Community Development Committee will meet after the next All Committees meeting, with mural projects to be a focus. He also asked Mr. Parker when the Park Board is likely to meet next. He replied "mid-April".

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields was absent.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg reported that the Rusk Co. Transit met March 6 and, much like the City with the armory, is trying to consolidate its operations at the Gates Avenue Plant.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the March 2, All Committees meeting.

Mr. Carlson provided a file on Corbett Lake plant growth, which he hopes the Public Works Comm. can consider at an upcoming meeting.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds stated he had hoped to have minutes from the recent Joint Management meeting, where (overheating) issues with the library heating system were a focus. He then noted that Doug's Plumbing was able to correct those issues without spending much time or money. Both levels are now steady at about 68 degrees.

Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to relocate the handicap parking stall on the west side of W. 2nd St. north on Miner Ave. from the southernmost space in that half block to the stall immediately south of the alley, as requested by Aurora Community Counseling.

A Youth and Rec Committee meeting will be slated when there are fewer date conflicts.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien advised that new patrol officer Renee Stoll will start March 20th. He also stated that, with warmer weather, more people are out and about.

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

The DPW requested approval of two Change Orders with Lechleitner Builders in regard to the armory conversion project currently underway.

*#2, in the amount of (-)\$1,000, for plumbing reductions. Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Hraban to approve. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent. Motion carried.

*#3, in the amount of (+)\$2,226, for thicker concrete. Groothousen made a motion and seconded to approve. Roll call vote: Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

The DPW noted that WisDOT has requested minor further refinements of the U.S.H.8/ Lake Ave. Plat and Relocation Order the Council recently approved. Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Groothousen and carried by voice vote to approve these further revisions. The DPW also noted that WisDOT will be holding a public information meeting on this project on April 29th.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson reported that the LCIDC has agreed to provide 50%, or \$3,000, of the support for seasonal position to focus on community marketing. He requested approval of \$3,000 from the City to assure this position is provided. Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Stoneberg to approve. Roll call vote: Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Alan Christianson Jr. asked if Planning Commission members had been notified by phone of the recent meeting, where a quorum was not present. Adm. Christianson replied that one member called to say she could not attend as evidence that notices were sent and received. He added it is common to send second email notices of such meetings. [Indeed the Notice was modified on 02/18 and posted a second time.]

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon displayed his latest issue of Green Magazine (for John Deere enthusiasts) and read from it where information on museums featuring JD equipment is specifically welcomed. He expressed hope that the position discussed under the Administrator's report above will actually provide such information to the museum.

Atty. Kenyon inquired as to the status of the Gateway Pavilion, noting bids had exceeded the available budget. It was noted that the City pledged \$20,000 toward the project, but that it is now in the hands of the Ladysmith Community Industrial Development Corp. and not the City.



Closed Session:

None.

Adjourn:

Upon motion which was made by Morgan and seconded by Reynolds the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____

RESOLUTION 2020-05

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECT FOR 2020 PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Ladysmith is responsible for maintaining city streets and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ladysmith has developed a Capital Improvement Plan and schedule for street updates and desires to reconstruct a total of nine blocks of 1st Street, E. 2nd Street, Lake Avenue, W. 3rd Street, and W. 4th Street and make water and/or sewer upgrades; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that residents in this project area have Low to Moderate Income (LMI) and the project is eligible for CDBG funding for public infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Program reimburses the City's expenses following the close of the project, and the City must provide interim financing to cover costs of Project incurred prior to receipt of the grant funds; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary, desirable, and in the best interest of the City of Ladysmith to advance monies from its funds on hand on an interim basis until the Grant becomes available;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin, determines as follows:

1. Expenditure of Funds. The City of Ladysmith shall make expenditures as needed from its funds on hand to pay the costs of the Project until the Grant becomes available.
2. Declaration of Official Intent. The City of Ladysmith hereby officially declares its intent to reimburse said expenditures with proceeds of the Grant, the principal amount of which is not expected to exceed \$925,000.00.
3. Unavailability of Long-Term Funds. No funds for payment of the Project from sources other than the Grant are, or are reasonably expected to be reserved or allocated on a long term basis, or otherwise set aside by the City pursuant to its budget or financial policies.
4. Public Availability of Official Intent Resolution. This Resolution shall be made available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office within thirty days after its approval in compliance with applicable State law governing the availability of records of official acts including Chapter 19 of Wisconsin Statutes, Subchapter II, and shall remain available for public inspection until the Grants are issued.
5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption and approval.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of March, 2020.

Allen Hraban, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk