

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
April 10, 2017 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: R. Moore.

Others present: A. Albarado, R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, S. Kisling, A. Lobermeier, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, C. Ostenso, D. Parker.

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 A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2017 Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Chrysa Ostenso appeared to question whether the amphitheater project is a done deal or if modifications might be considered. She seemed most concerned about the approval process; that the project was approved and funds were allotted without public input on the band shell design. Other concerns expressed included the number of large trees sacrificed

Ray Carlson reported that he and Asst. DPW Parker marked a new trail along the south side of Corbett Lake the previous week and that a Camp Flambeau crew did brush it. Mr. Carlson also reported that a volunteer who has helped him daily with rail display work is leaving as his employer lost a mail hauling contract he fulfilled.

Rusk County Transit Commission manager Sheryl Kisling appeared to update the Council on local bus and related transit operations. This discussion lasted about one half hour. Information provided by Mrs. Kisling is attached. She also noted that Winnie lee retired off the Transit Board on March 3rd as a City rep, leaving an opening. A bus user is also needed to serve on the Board. Although Mayor Reynolds noted strong support for most of the services the Transit Commission provides, he did question the wisdom of using it to take folks shopping in Eau Claire. Mrs. Kisling replied that these trips represent a very small percentage of the total. Mr. Morgan inquired as to the age of the vehicles used. Mrs. Kisling replied that new vehicles are rotated in on a regular basis, with older ones being cycled out.

Rusk County Economic Development Director Andy Albarado appeared to request permission to mount an approximately 7" dish atop City Hall to test the ability to transmit and receive a wireless signal from the Government Center to City Hall, as a precursor to investigating formation of a local government wireless network. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve this request.

Main Street Director A. Christianson 2 reported that last fall's "campfire" promotion won a Wisconsin Main Street award as last year's best new special event.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter advised that the Library Board will meet April 11th at 5 p.m.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan had nothing to report.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban reported that the Tourism Committee will meet April 11th at 5:30 p.m. at Jaedees; that Rusk County's Emergency Government Committee will meet at 8 a.m. April 12th; that the Ad Hoc Ambulance Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. May 1st; and, that the City Property Committee will meet here at 4 p.m. on April 12th.

District Four, Mr. R. Moore:

Mr. Moore was absent.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve the monthly invoices. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Morgan to pay for both CSM (303 E. 8th St. S.) preparation and a new welcome sign along Hwy. 8 W. from general fund balance until a budget amendment can be processed. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried. It was noted, in response to a question, that the welcome sign is expected to cost about \$1,000.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg reported on a Legal Affairs meeting held earlier in the evening, which dealt with the following:

- A Broadband Forward Community Model Ordinance.
- Review whether Sec. 2-4-8 and Sec. 2-4-13 of the Municipal Code are consistent.
- Considered status of student members of Park Board and whether to make changes.

None are proposed.

-Distributed copies of Chapter 6-4 of the Municipal Code pertaining to trees and shrubs.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban had nothing to report.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson called attention to minutes of the March 22, Park Board meeting, and advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet Wednesday, April 19th.

Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to repaint the Brooklyn Memorial Bridge black.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:

Chief Lobermeier stated, in response to a question, that background checks are currently being done on the new officer such that he is expected to start work in late May.

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

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of an invoice from Morgan & Parmley, in the amount of \$11,306, for design work on the Phillips Ave./1st St. project. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent. Motion carried. A question was raised how much is remaining on this cost. An answer wasn't immediately available.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson distributed copies of a proposed plow museum sign sketch. The County Property Committee will need to approve.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by the voice vote to merge the organizational Council meeting with the regular Council meeting to be held, Tuesday, April 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to approve a forest management plan for the old landfill "40" located along Cemetery Rd.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to expend \$300 from the 2017 street construction budget line to do preliminary loan application processing to provide evidence of availability of required local match funds to go with 50% grant request for \$1,000,000 street work proposed to be undertaken in 2018. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent. Motion carried.

Copies of an invitation to an April 27, open house at Westlake Enterprises were distributed.

Adm. Christianson called attention to a revised Proposal from Ayres to do simple cost estimates for a number of street projects that the PW Committee has identified as being

high priorities. The cost is \$1,100. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Pearson to approve. Mr. Morgan objected, stating that we have enough in-house knowledge of the condition of these streets to prepare cost estimates. It was noted, in response, that granting and permitting agencies often do not accept in-house estimates, requiring them to be engineer prepared. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-no; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-no; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

An article was distributed, which describes a variation of a downtown storefront program the City of Marshfield is using to target upgrades to backsides or rear entrances to its downtown buildings. A 50/50 matching grant is offered there.

It was mentioned that Ladysmith News will again be running its Northwoods Escape insert, which the City has sponsored quarter page ads in. The cost will be \$345. This will be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon noted that closure of a large Caterpillar plant in Aurora, IL will idle 800 workers, while our area is in need of workers. He went on to note that there are only a limited number of ways to expand the workforce, as follows:

- Keep older workers in the workforce longer.
- Keep more young people here.
- Employ rehabilitated workers.
- Immigration.

He went on to say that if we don't use one or more of these methods the community will continue to decline.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds advised that Nation Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 4th.

Mayor Reynolds also noted that we may only get one chance to make good reuse of the Ladysmith Elementary School following its pending closure, and suggested that needs to happen quickly, before it begins to deteriorate by sitting idle. He listed off numerous vacant schools within the area where results of reuse have been mixed and, too often, disappointing, considering their considerable one-time importance in their communities. He suggested it will take a collective effort of several local governments and institutions and, perhaps, private enterprises to do it, adding that we must try.

Mayor Reynolds noted that, with the organizational meeting coming up, Council members are welcome to make requests for consideration for committee assignments. He is also willing to consider requests for appointment to various boards and commissions.

The Mayor also commented on the high percentage of Muslim doctors at the Heart Institute in the Twin Cities, where he spent time the previous week. He went on to say that we need these doctors.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's license to Jasmine Bryant for Gordy's County Market, which was approved by LPD.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a Fireworks Seller's Permit for Mark Michielson d/b/a Flambeauland Fireworks at the Ace parking lot, 503 Lake Ave. W. from 06/21-07/12/2017. Fireworks to be sold will be Class C Family Fireworks.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____