

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
April 16, 2019 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

**Roll Call.**

Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, B. Groothousen, A. Hraban, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: A. Christianson 1, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, J. Pohlman II.

**Oath of Office:**

Adm. Christianson administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council members Brian Groothousen (District 3) and Marty Reynolds (District 7), and to re-elected Council members Mark Platteter (District 1) and Bonnie Stoneberg (District 5).

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Christianson called the meeting to order and served as chair.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Outgoing Council member Mike Hraban led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by B. Morgan and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2019, Council meeting.

**Election of Council President:**

Motion was made by Morgan to nominate Mr. Reynolds for Council President. There was not a second to that motion. Motion was then made by Stoneberg and seconded by Reynolds to nominate Mr. A. Hraban for Council President. After asking for additional nominations, but receiving none, the Mayor then asked that a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Hraban. Motion was made by Platteter, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to elect Mr. Hraban Council President.

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Mr. M. Hraban stated that the Ad Hoc Committee formed to review the City's Special Assessment policy will plan to meet on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

None.

**District and Committee Reports:**

**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

**District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:**

Mr. Morgan had nothing to report.

**District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:**

Mr. Groothousen had nothing to report.

**District Four, Mr. J. Fields:**

Mr. Fields advised that even though he is no longer the Chair of the Community Development Committee he plans to continue to follow up on organizing a fishing contest he has advocated.

**District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:**

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

**District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban noted that the Public Works Committee will meet April 23<sup>rd</sup> to do a public walk through of the Worden Ave. (E. 4<sup>th</sup> to W. 4<sup>th</sup>) reconstruction project and again on April 25<sup>th</sup> to do a public walk through of the Fritz Ave. (W. 2<sup>nd</sup> to W. 5<sup>th</sup>) reconstruction project.

**District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:**

Mr. Reynolds asked if there are plans to reconstruct W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. north of North Ave. and Flambeau Ave. east of W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. DPW Gorsegner replied that those are on the City's wish list. Flambeau Ave., like many other streets, is completely destroyed.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports:**

No reports.

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

DPW Gorsegner had nothing to report.

**Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:**

Adm. Christianson commented on the amount of misinformation about the City, its policies and practices, that is on social media. This makes it ever more difficult to provide accurate information to the public if they simply believe what they read, regardless of the source (heard it from somebody who heard it from somebody). He went on to say he is blaming social media, not the Ladysmith News or Mr. Klink, although the latter might be able to be part of the solution.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:**

Mayor Christianson presented appointments to City offices, Council committees, boards and commissions. Mr. Reynolds asked if it might be best to follow past practice of having the City's Property Committee Chair (Morgan) on the Joint Management Committee (JMC). Adm. Christianson replied that you (Mr. Reynolds) need to be on the Property Committee due to your considerable knowledge of plumbing and heating systems at the former armory, and need to be on the JMC owing to your considerable knowledge of ventilation at the library. [Considerable money may need to be spent at both facilities

going forward and this knowledge will be important.] Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve the appointments as made.

The Mayor then noted that, during his just concluded first year in office, he had allowed folks to talk over others too often or before the person who had the floor had finished. He went on to say that he intends to tighten that up going forward by requiring that:

- Those wishing to have the floor raise their hands and be recognized by the Chair before beginning their comments.
- That all those in attendance respect the person who has the floor.

The Mayor went on to say that the City is facing considerable challenges, including but not limited to the following, and needs to have orderly meetings in order to address them:


- Declining population.
- Declining school enrollments.
- Industries have closed leaving empty buildings that are costly to keep up.
- We have many streets that have failed or are failing and limited financial ability to address them.

**Licenses and Permits:**

None.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote the meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.

**Recorded by:**   
Alan Christianson  
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

**Publication:**

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