

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

April 23, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Christianson 2, Hraban, M. Hraban, R. Moore, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: J. Pearson.

Others present: L. Burki, A. Christianson 1, T. East, K. Gorseger, Z. Gothman, K. Julien, A. Kelsey, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, C. and J. Pohlman III, J. Pohlman II, M. Rudack, C. Schultz.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Stoneberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2018 Council meeting.

Agenda:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda. It was noted that a Lions Club Proclamation in regard to its anniversaries will be considered at the May 28, meeting.

Hearings and Appearances:

Lani Burki appeared to invite those present to participate in National Day of Prayer to be held Thursday, May 3rd at both OLS and Sheldon Gospel Church.

At 6:30 p.m. a Public Hearing was convened on a proposed City application for CDBG assistance. Amy Kelsey from Cooper Engineering appeared along with Zech Gotham from Morgan and Parmley to lead the Hearing in regard to the City's intent to apply for CDBG funds to assist reconstruction of portions of Fritz and Worden Avenues, which course through mixed use areas of the City, where there are a higher than average number of LMI residents. The estimated cost of this project is over \$1.9 million.

Ms. Kelsey covered the following in her comments:

1. Identification of total potential funds.
-\$10 million is expected to be available in Wisconsin in 2018 to benefit low and moderate income (LMI) people.
2. Eligible CDBG activities.
-Eligible activities fall under the general categories of housing, economic development, planning, and public facilities. The latter range from infrastructure such as water and sewer main replacement, to fire stations, to special needs facilities.
3. Presentation of previously identified community development needs.

-Mr. Gotham explained that street surface conditions along Fritz Ave. from W. 5th St. to W. 2nd St. and along Worden Ave. from W. 4th St. to E. 4th St. are very poor and that public sanitary sewer and water main underlying them are also in poor condition, with some being in excess of 100 years old (1906). These sections will need to be completely rebuilt along with adjoining sidewalk, curb and gutter, which will be further damaged by necessary replacement of laterals connecting the mains to adjacent dwellings and businesses.

4. Identification of additional community development needs by the public.
(see below)
5. Presentation of activities proposed for CDBG application, including potential residential displacement. (see above)
6. Citizen input regarding proposed and other CDBG activities.
(see below)

During the Public Hearing, citizens and City officials identified the following additional community development needs or concerns regarding the City.

- Handicap accessible sidewalks are needed, especially near the middle school.
- The opportunity of obtaining other grants should be explored as should the possibility of dividing the project into two smaller ones so that grant assistance can be applied for twice. Since 2012, the City has completed nearly 20 projects with local funds. With area per capita and household incomes being among the lowest in the State, it is hard to raise the needed money locally. It was noted grant assistance will be a "godsend".
- Housing is needed in various segments and workforce needs to be maintained. These are interrelated because workers in the community need a place to stay. It was suggested the City work with ICAA, WHEDA, and Block Grant to meet these housing needs. There are 1,558 housing units, down from 1,660 at the time of the previous census. 55% of housing in owner-occupied, with 38% renter occupied.
- Retention of Workforce. Create additional amenities and recreational opportunities to both attract people to the area and retain them.
- Child care facilities. There are only 90 licensed day care slots in the entire County. Most day care facilities and providers have waiting lists. More capacity is needed to accommodate workers.
- Maintain decent and affordable housing opportunities for the senior population as they are vital citizens of the City.
- The City's circa 1946 public works maintenance shop is undersized and outmoded.

At 7:26 p.m. motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to close the Hearing.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to adopt Resolution #2018-05 to authorize submission of the aforementioned CDBG application seeking assistance with a project to rebuild portions of Fritz and Worden Avenues.

Adm. Christianson suggested that the remaining resolutions and actions be by roll call vote as each brings with it a potential for expenditure of monies.

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by A. Hraban to adopt Resolution #2018-06 committing local matching funds to the CDBG project referenced above. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg to adopt Resolution #2018-07 approving a revised Citizen Participation Plan. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by M. Hraban to commit to the Fair Housing Actions indicated in the document attached. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve the Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan attached. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Fields to adopt Resolution #2018-08 authorizing the Mayor, as City representative to, in turn, authorize Cooper Engineering to work on on-line applications for CWF and SDWLP assistance from WDNR. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Pohlman II to discuss the proper method for pruning the Victory Tree adjacent to the Post Office. Mr. Pohlman then noted because it is being grown in the open with unlimited access to sunlight (when sun is up and skies not overcast) it will tend to grow in circumference more than up. Trimming its sides on a routine basis will direct new growth upward, which most find more pleasing to the eye. He suggested trimming lower whorls when the tree is dormant. Mr. Parker will ask tree farmer Harold Gustafson if he is willing to do so.

As Mr. Christianson has only 20' of track for the Lake Ave. rail display, Mr. Morgan will talk with rail equipment collector Eric Thompson about getting an additional 20'.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban reported that the Board of Review will convene on May 14th, but then adjourn until November to allow the City's contracted assessor to complete revaluation visits in the interim.

Mr. Hraban reported that, by Federal orders, smoking will not be allowed in Ladysmith Housing Authority units after June 30th. Several who live in these units have smoked in them for years.

It was suggested that, when it finds the time, the crew should move the current farmer's market sign to the new location and place a sign at the past location indicating the new location.

District Four, Mr. R. Fields:

Mr. Fields mentioned that he will try to write a news brief following each Council meeting. Newscaster Bob Krejcarek is willing to provide three minutes of air time with the daily news.

Referring to earlier mention of workforce retention, Mr. Fields stated that his former bandmate, Rob Strahm, is looking into creating a scholarship to be given to a post high school student who want to reside here following his or her post-secondary education.

Mr. Fields passed out information about the planned Rusk County Rodeo, adding that the promoter is seeking additional sponsors.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet at the Fire Hall on the 25th.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban mentioned recent Public Works meetings and advised that the Cemetery Board will be meeting May 1st at 10 a.m.

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by Stoneberg to increase summer worker pay to \$10/hour to attract more candidates. It was stated that the City's pay scale is not competitive. Mr. East stated that Rusk County pays summer workers \$12.50/hour. It was noted that these workers really compliment the regular crew keeping parks, the cemetery, and other City grounds looking good. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson was absent.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien reported that he has received notice from Sgt. Brian Kusmirek that he is leaving to take a job as a railroad policeman, adding that, in his letter, he spoke about how positive his experience with LPDP has been. Several at the table indicated they thought highly of him as well.

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

The DPW requested expenditure of \$1,000 from to have Sewer Utility prepare an Operational Evaluation Report for phosphorous removal as required by the City's WPDES permit. Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by M. Hraban to approve. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent. Motion carried.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson advised that, at the next meeting, there will be an ordinance on the agenda for action which, if adopted, will advance Council meeting times from 6:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. It was indicated that another action item for the next meeting will be approval of various exterior access and drainage repairs at the Rockwell lease space.

Adm. Christianson requested approval to expend \$345 from the Council grants and aids budget line to sponsor the usual City ad in this summers' Northwoods Escape insert to the Ladysmith News. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

It was reported that the City received a copy of a letter from CN to OCR wherein CN asks that the record for the Lake Ave. median matter be revised to indicate that CN train speeds through that crossing are up to 60 m.p.h., rather than 40 m.p.h. as was indicated. It was then mentioned that traffic on the N-S rail line here is expected to continue to rise until it reaches 43-45 trains daily.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon read aloud from an article in a trade publication wherein it is indicated that window sales are expected to rise 5% this year; good news for local window makers. In addition, there was a specific reference to Weather Shield as one company being responsive to customer interest in larger glass areas. Mr. A. Hraban, who recently retired from that firm, said its new three-day weekend shift seems popular with workers.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. A. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson thanked each member of the public for attending the meeting, adding that Cindy Pohlman and Melissa Rudack will be serving on Boards and Commissions. He also agreed with a Council member's earlier comment about respecting others, adding that respect also means complying with Council decisions and following the chain of command.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to grant tavern operator's licenses to Kayla Poppe for 211 Club and to Aubrey Smith for Krist Oil, both dependent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by M. Hraban seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve a Temporary Class "B" Beer/Wine License for Ladysmith Main Street, Alan Christianson 2, agent, for a music event to be held May 4th at Worden Avenue Exchange, 310 Worden Ave. E., with closing by 10 p.m. Motion was then made by Fields, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant Alan Christianson 2 a temporary operator's license for the same event.

Closed Session:

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Stoneberg, which was seconded and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned from closed session at 8:50 p.m. with no action having been taken therein.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:
Date submitted: _____
Date published: _____