

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
April 24, 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, T. Anderson, R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1 an 2, K. Gorsegner, A. Lobermeier, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, S. Martin, J. Pohlman.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mrs. Stoneberg 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 April 10, 2017 Council meeting.

**Agenda:**

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

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Main Street Director A. Christianson 2 alerted the Council that Main Street will be seeking Council approval to close one block of downtown street on the first Friday of June through September, from 5-10 p.m., to facilitate live music and car shows intended to add more interest downtown.

Scott Martin and Teresa Anderson from MSA Professional Services appeared to outline next steps in accepting and implementing an award of a 2016 CDBG grant of \$500,000, to be applied toward reconstruction of portions of E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. S./Pederson Ave./Center Ave. First, a number of agreements need to be put in place with the granting agency, WEDC, and with MSA. These include the following:

- An acceptance of grant form with Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. (WEDC).
- A grant administration agreement with MSA, the cost of which is \$30,000 to be paid from grant match funds. The largest piece of this work involves reviewing contractor payrolls and interviewing workers on the jobsite to be certain workers are being paid required federal wage rates.
- An agreement for services with MSA to prepare application materials for a Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) loan to finance the so-called local matching money share, which will be at least 50% of the project cost.
- An agreement between MSA and the City making MSA the City's "municipal advisor" for this specific project.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Pearson to approve entering into a project administration agreement with MSA, in the amount of \$30,000, in regard to the above mentioned CDBG grant. Roll call vote: Platteter-no; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Pearson to enter into an agreement with MSA to prepare an application on the City's behalf for a Safe Drinking Water loan, and to oversee its utilization to be certain it is in compliance with Program rules. The cost for these services will be \$46,500. 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 Pearson to enter into an agreement with MSA for that firm to serve as the City's "municipal advisor" for this specific street project. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

There was also discussion of whether to try to complete this project this fall, except for paving, or hold it over until 2017, with some expressing support for one approach and some the other.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

Rusk Co. Economic Development Director A. Albarado appeared in regard to Rusk County's request to install a small receiver dish atop City Hall to determine if a signal emanating from the Government Center will reach City Hall unimpeded. This is part of an investigation of forming a local wireless network that could involve the City, County, local school district, and other partners. Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to allow the receiver to be placed on the City Hall roof.

**District and Committee Reports:**

**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Morgan expressed concern about a proposed concrete floor under the proposed Lake Ave. Rail Display, as he feels the track should sit atop ties, which, in turn, should sit atop ballast. It was suggested that, perhaps, the ballast could be contained within a concrete foundation, which the support posts could also sit on. It was noted, in response to a question, that one piece of track to be donated is believed to be dated 1890, and the other 1882. [These are from the Chippewa River and Menomonie (CR&M) RR, which ran into the blue hills. Mr. Morgan's grandfather was the engineer on that line.]

Ray Carlson thanked Doug Parker for the recognition he prepared for Doug Groehler, who helped Ray for a long time with work on the Visitor Center rail display. Mr. Carlson went on to say that, while he is looking for a new helper, he needs to consider what it is on the to-do list that he can accomplish by himself in the meantime.

**District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban thanked Ray Carlson and Doug Groehler for painting (hunter green) four benches Merit Wood Products donated to the City. Two of these have been placed in front of 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Bar.

Mr. Hraban reported on the Property Committee meeting held April 12th.

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which Morgan seconded, to have the armory appraised. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent. Motion carried.

Mr. M. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to authorize seeking bids for City Hall remodeling.

Mr. Hraban advised that the Board of Review will be held at City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**District Four, Mr. R. Moore:**

Although Mr. Moore was absent, attention was called to the minutes of the April 17, All Committees meeting.

There was discussion of removing pine trees from City property on the south side of Phillips Ave. so that the sun can reach that road to help keep it free of ice. Some believe the trees should be left to help screen the City property from adjoining residences as the City property is used for purposes that can be unsightly. Neighbors also believe the trees help buffer train noise. It was suggested that we reconsider this after the pending road work is done.

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

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Hraban reported that the Public Works Committee met earlier in the evening.

**District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:**

Mrs. Pearson referenced the upcoming Park Board meeting. Mrs. Pearson also reported receiving a letter from constituent Nancy Wheeler which restated concerns the latter has with the amphitheater project.

It was mentioned that this year's Law Enforcement Memorial Service will be at LHS on the evening of May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gov. Walker is expected to be in attendance.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:**

Chief Lobermeier advised that he is still working on p.t. applicant background checks and will also be doing tavern inspections.

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

Bldg. Inspector Gorsegner indicated he will be working on tavern inspections this week along with the Fire Inspector and Police Chief. They coordinate these visits to keep business disruption to a minimum.

Mr. Gorsegner also noted, in response to a question, that he has been getting about one building permit application a day. None have been for houses yet. Rather, they have been for garages, decks and remodeling projects.

Mr. Gorsegner also reported that water main flushing, now underway, has stirred up some very discolored water. While the water is safe, households should flush their lines until they run clean.

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

Adm. Christianson requested approval to expend \$2,000 for dredging permit preparation to determine how much additional work might be needed to obtain such permit to facilitate construction of a covered bridge over Falge Park Drive near Hwy. 27. It was observed that, even if a permit is granted, it will just create a small area of water under the bridge. It was suggested that someone simply talk to DNR to see if the agency has any thoughts on prospects for getting a dredging permit.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of an invoice from MSA, in the amount of \$1,090.42, for work done on the 2017 CDBG application. With 2016 CDBG funds being offered for the same project that work has now been curtailed. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-absent; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Pohlman asked why the recommendation to paint the footbridge in Falge Park red, and why was the Park Board not consulted about color choice. He recalled that siding lumber for the bridge was sawn from century old logs dredged from the bay in front of the library and advocated this siding be left exposed and natural in color. Adm. Christianson replied that while at the Park he had noted that the footbridge was listing and that the buttress timbers were also rotten. He suggested to the Council that it be braced and leveled to keep it usable and safe. While looking closer at that job it also became apparent that the siding needed to be protected so had recommended it be painted bright red to attract attention to it during winter months in particular.

Mayor Reynolds expanded upon the need to develop and maintain more quality of life attractions in and about the City to attract and retain residents; the painting of the bridge being one such idea. He went on to say that the rail display and plow museum are other attractions, but that variety is needed as not everyone enjoys the same things. The Mayor went on to ask, if the Park Board feels it needs to be involved, why it didn't identify the

shortcomings to the footbridge and suggest solutions. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Christianson also advocated for using covered bridges, rare in our area, as attractions.

**Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:**

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report, but quipped that he is in favor of painting the footbridge green and yellow.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:**

Mayor Reynolds presented his appointments to Council committees, City offices, and various boards and commissions, the vast majority of which are essentially re-appointments. He noted that, because M. Platteter has a schedule conflict with Transit Commission meetings, he will replace A. Hraban on the Ethics Committee and A. Hraban will go back on the Transit Commission. And there may still be a couple more changes. Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the Mayor's appointments, attached hereto.

Mayor Reynolds called for nominations for Council President. M. Hraban nominated current Council President Ron Moore and Morgan seconded. Mayor Reynolds then called two more times for nominations, but no others were offered. Mayor Reynolds then asked for a motion to cast a unanimous vote for Mr. Moore. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and adopted without dissent to re-elect Mr. Moore.

**Licenses and Permits:**

None.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at about 8:20 p.m.

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

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