

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF  
THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**

**Monday, April 11, 2022      5:15 pm      Ladysmith Council Chambers**

**Members Present:** Mayor Vacho, M. Platteter, J. Pohlman, G. Schueller, J. West, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds **Absent:** B. Morgan

**Others present:** L. Klink, A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, S. Kavanagh, D. Parker, T. Carter, Robert Grotzinger, Ray Carlson, John Pohlman, II and Nathan Johnson.

**Call to order.** Mayor K. Vacho called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

**Roll Call.** Clerk Kavanagh took roll call and a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Reynolds.

**Minutes and Agenda.** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Pohlman, to approve the March 28, 2022 Council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passes by voice vote 6-yes, 0-no.

**Public Hearing on Special Assessments/Summit Ave Cul-de-sac.** No comments from the public were received.

**District 1, Platteter.**

**Ag Land Lease.** Motion by M. Platteter, seconded by A. Hraban, to accept the bid from Bill Parker of BP Farms to lease approximately 35 acres at a flat fee of \$55/acre for 7 years. M. Platteter-yes, J. Pohlman-abstain, G. Schueller-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion passes with 5-yes, 1-abstain.

**Request for Proposal on development of former animal shelter property.** Adm Christianson would like to put the RFP out to developers/interested parties by the end of the month and allow until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June for submittals. Motion by M. Platteter, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve the RFP for the former animal shelter property. Motion passes by voice vote. 6-yes, 0-no.

Mr. Carlson reported the plan at the rail display is to finish up the ceiling and walls on the southside of Train Car #998 but to date, D. Parker has not heard from Camp Flambeau on whether they are available to assist with this project.

**District 2, Morgan.** Absent.

**District 3, Pohlman.** Nothing to report.

**District 4, Schueller.** Nothing to report.

**District 5, West.** Nothing to report.

**District 6, Hraban.** Mr. Hraban reported that there is a Library Board meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

**District 7, Reynolds.** Mr. Reynolds asked that a Finance Committee meeting be scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Reynolds reported on the Joint Management Committee meeting he attended on Friday, April 8. He brought to attention that the city owns 140 buildings while the county owns and maintains 170+ buildings; he mentioned the county has 5 employees in their Building/Grounds Dept and the City has no one designated for that purpose. The Rusk County Animal Shelter is seeking funds from the Friends of the Animal Shelter and Rusk County for blacktopping out at their new site. Discussion was had on the 3 aprons on the east end of a multi-tenant building on Fritz Avenue jointly owned by the County and City; two of the three aprons were approved for replacement and the third apron will be replaced by the tenant. The loading dock on the east side of the City's building occupied by Rockwell/Allen-Bradley has settled 8-10 inches and needs to be repaired along with another apron going into one of their storage buildings.

Recently, state funding has been approved for the 5R site cleanup but who will be responsible to take care of the 5R semi-trailers is still in question.

**Police and Fire Report.** Nothing was reported.

**Public Works Report.** D. Parker passed out the DNR's Sanitary Survey Report and Notice of Noncompliance for council review and asked that members bring their questions to the next council meeting. Mr. Reynolds commented on one of the 7 or 8 items outlined in the DNR report that need attention. For example, the report outlined the need for 1,500 distribution valves to be exercised every 2 years and the City simply doesn't have the manpower to accomplish this. Atty Kenyon also mentioned the DNR is recommending that the Water Utility apply for a rate adjustment to make water revenues cover operational costs.

**Administrator Report.** Discussion was held on the Ladysmith Street Planning priority list for 2022. Adm. Christianson would like to identify a specific street project that could be funded through a 2024 CDBG grant. The CDBG grant should be applied for larger street projects that are heavily traveled. Some examples are as follows:

- Miner Avenue rebuild from W 6<sup>th</sup> St S to E 3<sup>rd</sup> St S
- W. 5<sup>th</sup> St North from North Ave to Flambeau Ave
- Adams Avenue E from E 9<sup>th</sup> St S to E 12<sup>th</sup> St S
- Lindoo Avenue

The Miner Ave water lines are 6" cast iron from 1962-1963 and could potentially be choked with mineral deposits restricting water flow to possibly 2". Sanitary sewer along that stretch of Miner Ave is clay pipe installed in 1911; it is undersized and very old.

Mr. Reynolds would also like the Council to consider resurfacing some City streets that may not need a full rebuild.

Atty Kenyon mentioned a couple additional heavily traveled streets that need repair: Fritz Ave from E 2<sup>nd</sup> to W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and E 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Sabin Ave to Lake Ave. Mr. Reynolds also agreed that Fritz Ave E going down the hill past a couple apartment buildings is in very rough

shape; branches and bushes are overhanging the street and drainage issues should be addressed by the Public Works Committee.

Adm Christianson thanked the outgoing mayor and council representatives for their hard work and dedication to the City. He also invited all council members to a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 13 at 5:00 pm for Tyrel Sikora who now owns the former bank building across from City Hall. Also, the Northland Community Club is looking to do a park clean up day to paint over some graffiti under the bridge and pick up garbage; they are looking for paint and supplies to be donated for that purpose.

**Attorney's Report.** Nothing to report.

**Licenses and Permits.** Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve Operator Licenses for Richard Kriz, Stephen Fischer and Joan Fischer. Motion passes by voice vote. 6-yes, 0-no.

Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by M. Reynolds, to approve the Temporary Class "B" License for the Ladysmith Lions Club's "Legacy Leap into Summer" event. Motion passes by voice vote 6-yes, 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Pohlman, to approve the Fireworks Seller's Permit for Mark and Marena Michielson of Flambeau Fireworks. Motion passes by voice vote 6-yes, 0-no.

**Mayor's Forum.** Nothing to report. Mr. Reynolds thanked Mayor Calvin Vacho for his service and welcomed incoming Mayor Robert Grotzinger.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. West to adjourn at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk