

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

Monday, April 22th, 2024

5:15pm

Ladysmith Fire Hall

Members Present: Mayor Robert Grotzinger, Richard Ostenso, Nathan Johnson, Mike Hraban, Al Christianson, Steve Weiss, Randy Lovely, John Hoover.

Others Present: Admn. A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, D. Parker, P. Rowe, S. Nelson, Terry Carter, Luke Klink, Chief K. Gibbs, John Pohlman III, Greg Wagner, Laura Jennerman, Ray Carlson.

Call to Order: Mayor Grotzinger called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

Roll Call: Clerk Nelson took roll call and a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mr. Hraban.

Minutes and Agenda: Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to approve April 8th, 2024 Common Council Minutes, April 16th, 2024 Organizational Common Council Minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Introduction of Guest, Public Hearings, Comments:

Motion by A. Christianson; seconded by N. Johnson to adopt Resolution 2024-05 to Authorize the City Administrator to File Application for Financial Assistance from the State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to adopt Resolution 2024-06 Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures for the Safe Drinking Water (SDW) Loan Program and Clean Water Fund (CWF) Loan Program for the Corbett Avenue and Lindoo Avenue Projects. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Christianson; seconded by N. Johnson to adopt Resolution 2024-07 authorizing sidewalk, curb and gutter installation, street reconstruction and levying special assessments against benefited property pursuant to special assessment police powers under section 66.0703, Wisconsin Statutes. Motion passed by roll call vote. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. 7-yes. 0-no.

District One – R. Ostenso: Nothing to report.

District Two – N. Johnson:

Review draft regarding the community garden agreement. Attorney Rowe presented a draft agreement. Admn Christianson reported this will also be reviewed with group requesting community garden. Attorney Rowe noted that some items may not be necessary to include in agreement, but can be removed as necessary. S. Weiss inquired about costs and if the City has ever had a community garden in previous years. T. Carter inquired about item two (2) referring to fences. Mayor Grotzinger reported it was his understanding the entire garden would be fenced in not individual plots. Admn Christianson reported any fees would go directly to group for expenses associated with project. J. Hoover inquired about the use of fertilizers. S. Weiss spoke in

favor of the project. Mayor Grotzinger noted that if any other questions came up after meeting, to address them to the Administrator.

N. Johson reported there is a Park Board meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

District Three – M. Hraban:

Review and possible approval of 2024 Sidewalk Replacement Bid per Public Works Committee

recommendation. M. Hraban noted that three (3) bids were received in total. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by A. Christianson to approve low bid in the amount of \$21,133 from DC Crete for 2024 Sidewalk Replacement Bid per recommendation of the Public Works Committee. Motion passed by roll call vote. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. 7-yes. 0-no.

Review and possible approval of 2024 Chipseal Bid per Public Works Committee recommendation. M.

Hraban noted that two (2) bids were received in total. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by A. Christianson to approve low bid in the amount of \$50,939 from Scott Construction for 2024 Chipseal Bid per Public Works Committee recommendation. Motion passed by roll call vote. S. Weiss-yes. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. 7-yes. 0-no.

Ray Carlson noted that he has continued to work on the history of the rail display. Ray Carlson inquired about a grate that was lent out and its whereabouts. A. Christianson reported that was returned within a year and was reinstalled after copies were produced.

District Four – A. Christianson: A. Christianson presented a document to the council after reaching out to the City's long time financial consultant regarding potential funds that would become available in the future for road reconstruction. A. Christianson reported by replacing debt being paid off with new debt the tax rate would potentially stay the same in regards to that purpose. A. Christianson stated the Council could look over document and ask any questions they may have at a future meeting.

Admn. Christianson noted it was discussed in 2022 that in 2025 when some of the debt would be paid off, the City could then borrow a substantial sum.

District Five – S. Weiss: S. Weiss requested an update regarding the billboards. Admn Christianson reported he hoped they would be installed prior to Memorial Day.

District Six – R. Lovely: R. Lovely reported that he completed the Board of Review training.

District Seven – J. Hoover:

Presentation from Laura Jennerman regarding fluoride in water. Laura Jennerman presented a slide-show to Council regarding fluoride. The City of Ladysmith held a referendum in 1960 asking if residents would like fluoride added to City water. The referendum was passed at that time. Laura Jennerman spoke in disagreement of fluoride being added to the City water. Laura Jennerman inquired about another possible referendum or petition.

T. Carter stated he believed that if something was enacted via referendum, it would have to go back on referendum to be reversed. Mayor Grotzinger stated that was also his understanding. Mayor Grotzinger reported the process would require a petition.

S. Weiss spoke against concerns addressed in presentation and urged Council to gather additional information

from other sources.

J. Hoover clarified L. Jennerman appeared before the Council on her own and not a part of any organization.

Police and Fire Report: Chief K. Gibbs reported since Miner Ave Construction has begun, the Firetrucks will be exiting the Fire Hall onto Hwy 8 until project is completed. Chief K. Gibbs noted the Fire Department received a \$1,000 donation from Jump River Co-op. They will be using that money towards replacing the flatbed on unit 248 that is in rough shape. Chief K. Gibbs reported they presented a slight increase to the Rural Fire Commission to help cover increasing cost. They did also have an equivalent raise 5 years ago, but previous to that it had not been raised in many, many years. Chief K. Gibbs reported the Rural Fire Commission are happy with the service the Fire Department provides and he does not believe there will be an issue with the increase. The Fire Department will also acquire two (2) tankers from the Rural Fire Commission for \$1 each as they can no longer assume the costs of maintaining them. Mayor Grotzinger inquired about the truck's conditions. Chief Gibbs reported that the new pumper truck will allow for a significant decrease in water usage at a fire call.

Public Works Report:

Review and possible approval of painted bike lanes on East 3rd Street North: DPW. Gorsegner reported the lines would be painted by State during Hwy 8 project. DPW Gorsegner requested symbols as well. A. Christianson inquired about loss of parking. DPW Gorsegner reported this would not affect parking. Motion by S. Weiss; seconded by N. Johnson to approve painted bike lanes on East 3rd Street North with cost not to exceed \$1,000. Motion passed by roll call vote. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. 7-yes. 0-no.

DPW Gorsegner reported that the geese in the parks will be euthanized via carbon dioxide per the Department of Wildlife Services, allowing them to be safe for human consumption.

N. Johnson inquired about the start of the Hwy 8 project. DPW Gorsegner reported that preconstruction meetings will occur in the next week or so.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Rowe provided information regarding walking quorums, the definition and how they can apply not only in person, but also emails and phone calls as well. Attorney Rowe explained how communications regarding City business discussed outside of a scheduled meeting can violate the open meetings law in Wisconsin. S. Weiss asked for additional clarification from Attorney Rowe regarding speaking to another Council person in a manner that was only gathering information. Attorney Rowe reported that Council should always operate on the side of caution. Attorney Rowe reported that Council members are representing the City and it's important to monitor actions and act accordingly when interacting with the public.

License and Permits:

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Ostenso to approve provisional operator's license for A. Smith pending PD approval. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by R. Ostenso; seconded by R. Lovely to approve provisional operator's license for K. Mincoff. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve provisional operator's license for A. Colon pending PD approval. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Mayor's Forum: Mayor Grotzinger reminded the Council members it is very important to attend Committee meetings they are assigned to when they are able so City business can be completed.

Closed Session. Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Lovely to go into closed session under authority granted in Wis Stat. 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats. to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to wit; to discuss sale of Industrial property with possible action. Motion passed by roll call vote. J. Hoover-yes. R. Ostenso-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. S. Weiss-yes. R. Lovely-yes. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Ostenso to return to open session. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Return to Open Session: Discussion/Action as may be necessary or appropriate on matters discussed in closed session. Mayor Grotzinger announced during closed session Council agreed to continue negotiations on industrial property.

Adjourn: Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to adjourn at 6:50pm. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Nelson, City Clerk