

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
May 28, 20196:30 p.m.Council Chamber

Roll Call.

Members present: A. Christianson 2, B. Groothusen, A. Hraban, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: J. Fields.

Others present: A. Christianson 1, B. Ellmann, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2019, Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Mr. Bill Ellmann from 1021 W. 5th St. N. appeared to advocate that special assessments be spread among all properties City-wide. Ellmann went on to suggest holding a binding referendum next April. Atty. Kenyon noted, in response to a question, that a City-wide assessment isn't possible, and added that being under State imposed tax levy limits the City can't simply raise taxes either. Kenyon went on to note that there are many ways of allocating comparative benefit, most of which have only slight advantages or disadvantages for one class of owners as opposed to another. Adm. Christianson referenced an old adage by adding that "a tax by any other name is still a tax".

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by Platteter and seconded by Morgan to approve Resolution #2019-07, a final resolution authorizing curb and gutter, water main, sanitary sewer installation and street reconstruction and levying special assessments against benefitted property along portions of Summit Ave. and W. 5th St. N. Mr. Reynolds stated that he would like to see some action from the Ad Hoc Committee before voting. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothusen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes? Motion carried.

Licenses and Permits:

Mr. Hraban expressed frustration that because the list of licenses and permits up for approval included permits for both Music on Miner and for an event at Worden Avenue

Exchange the same time on June 7th , that might divide attendance between the two. It was suggested however, that due to the differences in music styles planned, the two events would probably attract different crowds. Motion was then made by Groothousen, seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote, with Hraban abstaining, to grant all the licenses and permits listed on Appendix A, attached hereto, contingent upon LPD approval.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve the monthly invoices.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan made a motion, which was seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote, to donate a three-door cooler from the former armory to the LFD. It was agreed that any items from a Property Committee meeting that was cancelled last week, that can be, will be incorporated into next week's All Committees meeting.

District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:

Mr. Groothousen called attention to minutes of the May 15, Community Development Committee and Planning Commission meetings. He also advised that the recent Park Board minutes will be included in the next Council meeting packet.

Mr. Groothousen made a motion and Hraban seconded to have Signs by Stanton produce four signs at \$88 each depicting a quote from Aldo Leopold's book A Sand County Almanac, which judges other campsites by how they compare to those along the Flambeau. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Groothousen made a motion, which was seconded by Stoneberg, to have Signs by Stanton produce two signs at \$500 each providing useful information about the Flambeau River. These are to be placed near the City's two boat landings. After Mr. Platteter questioned a couple items in the write up, the motion and second were withdrawn pending clarification.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields was absent.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg called attention to minutes of the May 16, Legal Affairs meeting.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the May 16, Public Works meeting and the May 20, All Committees meeting.

Mr. Hraban made a motion and Groothousen seconded to accept Scott Construction's Proposal to do approximately 28 blocks of crack fill, poly-fiber patch, and chip sealing of various sections of street for \$76,117. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hraban made a motion and Stoneberg seconded to accept Howard Schreiber's Proposal to remove 65 red pine trees from City property along Phillips Ave. for \$3,700, and to accept Jon Armstrong Services' Proposal to grind the above referenced stumps for \$1,198. Mr. Morgan advocated the stumps be left in place and covered with topsoil. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-no. Motion carried.

Mr. Hraban advised that a Public Works Committee will be held immediately following this meeting.

Mr. Hraban reported that a concern Director Tom Hall raised at the recent Emergency Government meeting is that several first responders are nearing retirement without replacements being readily available.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds reported that, while in Madison last week, he was able to convince our Rep., Jim Edming, and our Senator, Jerry Petrowski, to include a \$200,000 allocation in the initial State budget draft to be applied specifically toward the proposed W. 5th St. reconstruction project.

Mr. Reynolds suggested consideration be given to replacing traditional turkeys (now beef roasts) and hams, given at holiday time, with gift-certificates to local restaurants to keep dollars spent local.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien reported that the past weekend was a busy one for LPD.

Fire Chief Gibbs reported that only the Town of Grow has yet to sign a 5-year fire protection renewal agreement. Service to the Town of Willard will be charged on a per call basis. The LFD is working on some facility repairs at the fire hall, including flooring in the hallway.

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

The DPW requested approval of three Haas Sons invoices, as follows:

- An invoice, in the amount of \$363,370.11, for work completed on the Fritz (W. 2nd to W. 5th) and Worden Ave. rebuild.
- An invoice, in the amount of \$4,563.44, for work completed on the Summit Ave. rebuild.
- An invoice, in the amount of \$4,567.41, for work completed on the Fritz Ave. (W.5th to W. 9th) repave project.

Motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Hraban to approve the Haas invoices. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent. Motion carried.

DPW Gorsegner distributed copies of a sketch illustrating how VMA, d/b/a The Drop Zone, would like to replace its current single driveway with a separate entrance and exit to reduce hazards associated with one large drive. Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by Reynolds, and carried by voice vote to approve the proposed layout.

DPW Gorsegner advised that he will be meeting soon with a Monarch Paving rep to review the scope of work and get a quote for repaving the alley in the 100, 200 east and 200 west blocks lying north of Worden Ave.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson requested authorization to execute an Engagement Letter with the City's audit firm, CLA, documenting its involvement in assisting the City with a formal water user rate increase evaluation. Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Hraban, and carried by voice vote to approve.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson reported that he was able to attend a handful of local Memorial Day observances.

The Mayor then requested approval of a \$30 contribution from the Council grants and aids budget line to pay for a planter near the main entrance to City Hall. Motion was made by Hraban and seconded by Groothousen to approve. Roll call vote: Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

The Mayor reported that the LHS tech ed department won a nationwide welding competition where other top contenders were from Norwalk, CA, with a population near 100,000 and from Cincinnati, OH, with a population near 300,000. The competition was based on videos provided by the applicants. As a result of the win, LHS's shop will receive the following: some shop revamping; new tools; and, \$5,000 cash.

Closed Session:

At 6:40 p.m., motion was made by Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice item (23). Roll call vote: Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-absent; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Within the Closed Session motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to agree to enter into an Option to Purchase with MCHS hospitals

for that entity to acquire property commonly referred to as the former Mount Senario College athletic fields located along Port Arthur Rd. and consisting of a former football/soccer field; a softball field; a tennis and basketball court facility; parking and nominal electrical.

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to return to Open Session.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned 6:46 p.m.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:
Date submitted: _____
Date published: _____