

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**

Monday, May 11, 2020

5:15 pm

Rusk County Government Center

Members present: M. Platteter, B. Morgan, B. Groothousen, G. Schueller, B. Stoneberg, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds Others present: D. Parker, S. Kavanagh, K. Gorsegner, Adm A. Christianson, Chief Julien, A. Kenyon, Tom Hall. Callers on the phone lines: Cindy Pohlman, Chryssa Ostenso, Colleen Peters, Sue Moore, John Pohlman.

**Call to Order.** Acting Mayor A. Hraban called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance.** B. Groothousen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes and Agenda.** Motion by M. Platteter, to approve the May 4, 2020 Council Minutes and the May 11, 2020 Council Agenda, seconded by G. Schueller. One correction was noted to the May 4, 2020 Council Minutes; Page 4 revise COVID-10 to COVID-19. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Public Appearances.** None.

**AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Presentation.** Tom Hall, Rusk County Emergency Government, discussed acquisition of a defibrillator unit for City Hall and demonstrated how to operate the unit. Mr. Hall offered to provide training free of charge to City staff and elected officials interested in learning how to operate the defibrillator. Pricing for an AED ranges from \$1,200 - \$1,500 but he suggested purchasing the full package which would include the AED, an "alarmed" cabinet when opened, signage and supplies.

**District 1, Platteter.** Motion by B. Groothousen to authorize the hiring of seasonal staff as applicants become available, seconded by A. Hraban. The council reviewed the Summer Staff List; D. Parker reported needing to fill another 6-8 lifeguard positions in order to open the beach at Memorial Park. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by B. Morgan, to hold off on hiring a seasonal City Hall/Marketing Intern. Adm. Christianson offered to assist with marketing city amenities, event promotion and updating website content. Motion carried with 5 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 abstention by B. Stoneberg.

**District 2, Morgan.** Motion by B. Morgan to approve donating the former Miner Plaza sign to John Hoover, seconded by M. Reynolds. It was clarified that Mr. Hoover will handle picking up the sign. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Community Garden.** The City owns various vacant lots that may be suitable for a community garden. Motion by B. Groothousen, seconded by B. Stoneberg, to post on the City's website, information on establishing a community garden and encouraging interested people to respond. Motion carried by voice vote.

**District 3, Groothousen.** Park Board will be meeting next Wednesday, May 20, 2020; Community Development Meeting next Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:15 pm and also the following Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 4:00 pm in the Rusk County Board Room, Rusk County Courthouse.

**Going "Paperless" Update.** D. Parker spoke with the County Clerk regarding the pros and cons of going paperless. They found that laptops versus tablets are more user friendly for county board members. The City would need to purchase 8-9 laptops and they range from \$300 - \$1,500 each. Agenda/minute software annual fees start around \$3,200 and go upwards from there.

**Mural.** Council members reviewed the new murals and discussed possible locations, as presented by City Hall staff. Motion by B. Groothousen, seconded by M. Reynolds, to seek bids on mural installation, as follows:

- Mounting the Blackbullhead fish mural and Duck Decoy on the Ace Hardware building.
- Mounting the Record Musky and Albino Musky fish murals on Flambeau River Outfitters building.
- Move the "plat book" mural to the south end of the Post Office mural and install the "famous persons" mural on the north end of the Post Office mural, along with purchase and installation of black panels to finish off the backside of the mural.
- Construction of a 40 ft. x 10 ft. frame for the Veteran's Mural (currently on the Clark Building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street E); location to be determined.
- Mounting the Mardi Gras mural in Memorial Park, specific location to be determined by the Park Board.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**Council Roles.** B. Groothousen discussed empowering City Hall staff ; allowing "budgeted" expenditures to be purchased; making more day to day operating decisions. Council should be spending their time setting policy; developing long range plans and overseeing the City's financials.

**LHS Banners.** Motion by B. Groothousen, seconded by B. Stoneberg, to allow LHS graduate banners to be hung on the Memorial Park fence, at no cost to the City. Chryssa Ostenso volunteered to confirm with the LHS principal that all graduates are being represented and banners are of uniform size. Motion carried by voice vote. Mr. Groothousen will confirm with the LHS parent and LHS principal that their request has been approved.

**District 4, Schueller.** No report.

**District 5, Stoneberg.** No report.

**District 6, Hraban.** K. Gorsegrner and A. Hraban took a tour of the new PW facility and it is progressing very well. All roof top units have been installed by crane, most of the tin for HVAC has been installed and waterlines are being finished up.

**Purchase of Used Pickup Trucks.** Public Works budgeted \$21,000 to purchase two pickup trucks to be used by seasonal employees. It was noticed that Flambeau Auto has had on display used construction pickup trucks (single cab, full box, 4-wheel drive) priced between \$8,000-\$10,000. Once inspections are completed and the trucks are placed on the lot, they are selling very quickly. Motion by B. Groothousen, seconded by A. Hraban, to authorize spending budgeted funds to buy two pickup trucks as they become available. M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-no; B. Groothousen-yes; G. Schueller-yes, B. Stoneberg-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

**Sidewalk and Curb/Gutter Bid Award.** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by B. Groothousen, to award the bid received from DC Crete for \$23,724.00 for city sidewalk and curb/gutter replacement. M. Reynolds-yes, A. Hraban-yes, B. Stoneberg-yes, G. Schueller-yes, B. Groothousen-yes, B. Morgan-yes, M. Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

**District 7, Reynolds.** Board of Review, Monday, May 18, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

After a lengthy discussion, the IDC has agreed to partner with the City in providing financial assistance through the COVID-19 Micro-Business Economic Relief Fund (BERF) by providing a dollar for dollar match.

**Mardi Gras 2020.** With the health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, discussion followed regarding the 2020 Mardi Gras event.

- Adm Christianson commented that the Jaycees are proceeding with plans to hold the event but will make a final decision by early to mid-June, at the latest. It was mentioned that the Council may desire to also make recommendations on holding Music on Miner and Music in the Park.

- B. Stoneberg and B. Groothousen would like to wait until the May 26<sup>th</sup> council meeting to make any recommendations. Within the next couple of weeks, additional guidelines may become available to assist communities in deciding how to proceed (or not proceed) with planned festivals and events that draw large crowds.
- The rodeo will not be held this summer but the Rusk County Fair is planning to be held.
- S. Moore commented that community events, such as Music on Miner and Music in the Park, not be cancelled but instead allow individuals to make their own decision to attend or not attend.
- D. Parker commented that a Park Board member contacted him with the same comment; to not cancel these summer events.
- M. Reynolds commented that he is concerned with the “lack of social distancing” that would occur during the Mardi Gras festival and the risk of exposure to our community.

**Police and Fire Report.** The next Police & Fire Commission meeting should be held in June.

**Public Works Report.** K. Gorsegrer is working with the Fire Department to begin looking at maximum occupancy for our local businesses. It may become necessary to know maximum occupancy levels if, for example, directives come down that restaurants are allowed to open at 50% occupancy levels.

**Administrator Report.** Review of TID plans will be presented during the closed session as that information ties into the property acquisition discussion.

**Attorney’s Report.** Special Election on May 12; polls are open from 7 am until 8 pm.

**Licenses/Permits.** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Reynolds, to approve the Firework Seller’s Permit to Flambeauland Fireworks pending FD approval. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by G. Schueller to approve Provisional Operator Licenses for Callisto Lincoln and Samantha Mitchell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by B. Stoneberg, to approve the annual 2020-2021 Liquor License applications. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by B. Groothousen, to approve the 2020-2021 Operator License applications, as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Mayor’s Report.** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by B. Stoneberg, to approve the 2020-2021 Council-Committee-Commissions and Board Handbook. B. Groothousen’s occupation needs to

be revised to “school teacher” and it was clarified that the Park Board is to be comprised of 8 members per City ordinance. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by B. Groothousen, to hold the next Council meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 instead of Monday, May 25, which is Memorial Day. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Closed Session.** Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by G. Schueller, to go into closed session under S. 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stat. to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to-wit: to discuss the terms of property acquisition. M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-yes, B. Groothousen-yes, G. Schueller-yes, B. Stoneberg-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by B. Stoneberg, to come out of closed session. M. Reynolds-yes, B. Stoneberg-yes, A. Hraban-yes, G. Schueller-yes, B. Groothousen-yes, B. Morgan-yes, M. Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

**Extension of BERF Boundaries; Agenda Item 13(b).** Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by B. Groothousen, to modify the BERF geographical boundaries to include TID #9, TID #10 and TID #11 and their umbrellas. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by B. Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk