

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

Monday, May 28th, 2024

5:15pm

Ladysmith Fire Hall

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

Others Present: Admn. A. Christianson, S. Nelson, P. Rowe, Ray Carlson, Tom Jarstad, Ray Carlson, Chief K. Julien, Chief K. Gibbs, C. Swearington, Sue Moore, Lois Goode.

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. Lovely.

Minutes and Agenda: Motion by R. Lovely; seconded by N. Johnson to approve May 13th, 2024 Common Council Minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Introduction of Guest, Public Hearings, Comments:

Review and possible action to adopt Resolution 2024-08: Authorizing Resolution for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban Forestry Grant. Admn Christianson reported this grant is used to acquire trees within the City that have been lost due to storms and potentially add new ones. Motion by A. Christianson; seconded by N. Johnson to adopt Resolution 2024-08: Authorizing Resolution for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban Forestry Grant. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Tom Jarstad addressed the Council regarding possible donation to help with the replacement of the Alano Club roof. Mr. Jarstad reported that the roof is in poor shape. Mr. Jarstad stated that their current insurance company has eliminated the roof from their current policy.

Lois Goode reported to the Council that they had their first train tour on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 that was given to a total of 28 students. The tour included four stops. First stop being the library where they listened to a train book being read. The second stop was a picnic at OJ Falge Park where they then walked to the Visitor's Center for the train tour led by Ray Carlson. Lois Goode reported that it was Bill Morgan's desire to have the box car be utilized as a reading and learning center. Lois Goode will be donating 65 Box Car children's books to be displayed in the box car, so parents can read them to their children when visiting the display. Lois Goode asked the Council to consider designating the donations received in the donation box at the Visitor's Center to be used to recreate and maintain Bill Morgan's legacy that this box car would be used as a reading and learning center. Sue Moore thanked the City for their support. Mayor Grotzinger thanked them for their efforts.

District One – R. Ostenso: Absent

District Two – N. Johnson:

Discussion and possible action to authorize Flexible Facilities Grant application for Rusk County Community Library. Christiana Swearington the director for the Rusk County Library reported that grants involving the

ability to complete renovations do not become available often. When applying for this grant, the City would be required to be the fiscal agent making them the recipient with the Rusk County Library being the sub-recipient. Grant applications need to be submitted by July 11th. Director Swearington reported that ideas for the grant money include renovating the basement of the library to possibly include a children's museum, 3-D printer, workspace pods, and telehealth. Admin Christianson spoke about additions related to the loss of meeting space and how they could grow the library footprint. Admin Christianson noted the potential increase cost of operational expenses. Admin Christianson spoke about the positive impacts a potential Children's Museum would bring into the library and creating an atmosphere directed at our youth. Admin Christianson reported that the grant does not require any match for funding unless you go over their capped amount of 4.2 million. J. Hoover inquired about the number of grants being awarded. Director Swearington reported this grant is available only in the state of Wisconsin. Mayor Grotzinger spoke in favor of the idea. Director Swearington spoke about concerns regarding staff and upkeep of the project once completed. R. Lovely inquired about including the County in decisions when operating costs would potentially be increasing. Mayor Grotzinger stated topic would be suited for Joint Management. Director Swearington reported that many details are still being worked out. Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Lovely to authorize Flexible Facilities Grant application for Rusk County Community Library. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

District Three – M. Hraban: Nothing to report.

District Four – A. Christianson: Nothing to report.

District Five – S. Weiss: Absent.

District Six – R. Lovely: Nothing to report.

District Seven – J. Hoover: Nothing to report.

Police and Fire Report:

Chief K. Julien reported they did extend an offer of employment and he will be starting the Police Academy next week, in which the Ladysmith Police Department is sponsoring. Upon successful completion the Department of Justice does reimburse the expense. Chief K. Julien reported Deputy Zach Neal has been hired as a parttime officer for the Police Department.

Chief K. Gibbs reported the new 5-year contract has been signed noting a slight increase. The Fire Department also agreed to purchased the two rural trucks number 245 & 244 from the Rural Community Fire Department for \$1 each as they no longer wanted to pay to maintain the vehicles, effective July 1st, 2024.

Chief K. Gibbs reported that instead of the water fights this year, they will be putting on a bags tournament for the Mardi Gra event. They will also be having the pancake breakfast.

Public Works Report:

Review and possible approval of 4th Street Parking Lot bid per MSA recommendation. Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to approve bid from Haas Sons Inc in the amount of \$54,432.96 for 4th Street Parking Lot per MSA recommendation. Motion passed by roll call vote. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. 5-yes. 0-no.

Admin Christianson reported there could potentially be a special meeting scheduled for next week in regards to work being completed on W 2nd St N. Noting discussion regarding completing the entire road, rather than just a section due to inadequate sewer/water lines.

Administrators Report:

Discussion and possible action on request from ALANO Club. Admin Christianson spoke in favor of the ALANO Club and the services they are able to provide. Admin Christianson reported on funding sources for potential aid including council grants and aids or the ARPA funds. J. Hoover inquired about the building as a whole and if other work is needed besides the roof. Mr. Jarstad reported that the building is ADA accessible. The total cost for the roof is \$33,000. M. Hraban inquired about other funding that could be available to the club. Motion by A. Christianson; seconded by R. Lovely to match donations dollar for dollar from any other donations received from individuals or businesses up to 50% of the requested amount. Motion passed by roll call vote. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. R. Lovley-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. 5-yes. 0-no. Mr. Jarstad thanked the Council.

Admin Christianson noted that item 19 on the agenda is no longer needed.

Attorney's Report: Nothing to report.

License and Permits:

Motion by M. Hraban; seconded by N. Johnson to deny West Cove Lanes 2024-2025 liquor license application until project is completed and in compliance. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Lovely to approve sidewalk permit for What's Brewing at JT's. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by R. Lovley to approve direct seller's permit pending PD approval for Tree-Ripe Fruit Co. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Motion by R. Lovely; seconded by N. Johnson to approve operator license pending PD approval for J. Colon. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Motion by R. Lovely; seconded by N. Johnson to approve operator license pending PD approval for L. Jacinto. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Chief K. Julien inquired about the sidewalk use permit and the ordinance related to it. Chief K. Julien discussed concerns brought to him about obstructing the sidewalk regarding downtown businesses. Mayor Grotzinger noted perhaps Legal Affairs needs to revisit ordinance.

Mayor's Forum:

Rusk County Historical Society thanked the City Council for the newly installed sidewalks located at the museum to allow it to be accessible to all residents of Ladysmith, Rusk County and visitors from other states so they can move from building to building safely and confidently. On Saturday, June 8th, 2024 at 1pm they have invited the Council and Bill Campion from DC Crete to the official opening.

Closed Session. Motion by R. Lovely; seconded by N. Johnson to go into closed session under authority granted in Wis. Stats 19.85(1) (e) 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 consider proposing changes to the current animal shelter operating agreement.

5.28.24 Common Council Minutes

Motion passed by roll call vote. R. Lovely-yes. J. Hoover-yes. N. Johnson-yes. M. Hraban-yes. A. Christianson-yes. 5-yes. 0-no.

Return to Open Session: Discussion/Action as may be necessary or appropriate on matters discussed in closed session. Mayor Grotzinger reported that the Council agreed to send a letter to Rusk County requesting approval to reopen Rusk County Animal Shelter operating agreement.

Adjourn: Motion by N. Johnson; seconded by M. Hraban to adjourn at 6:25pm. Motion passed by voice vote. 5-yes. 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Nelson, City Clerk