

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
June 24, 2019 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call.

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

Others present: A. Christianson 1, R. Freeman, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker, D. Pavlik, M. Stoffel.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Fields led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Groothousen and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2019, Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Mr. Carlson asked who has mowed around the visitor center rail display, noting they had done a good job. Mr. Morgan advised it was Doc's Lawn Service, which does so in exchange for being able to harvest hay from the cemetery.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Mr. Groothousen asked the cause of the City's sewer utility being deemed short on revenue. DPW Gorsegner replied that user rates haven't quite kept pace with routine operating costs and that goals are to make enough to have some monies set aside to cover unforeseens, adding that current rates are being reviewed. The DPW also noted that when the CMAR was initially required it focused on WWTF operations. The collection system has come under additional scrutiny in more recent years. Motion was made by Hraban, and seconded by and carried by voice vote to approve Resolution #2019-11, approving the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report relating to operation of the City's sanitary sewer collection and treatment systems. The DPW then praised Mr. Boehmer, Mr. Wiles and their crews for the high standards to which they operate these facilities for the City.

Ron Freeman from Indeck Ladymith LLC appeared to explain the reason that firm is seeking to amend the Industrial Revenue Bonds. Attention was called to an email from the City's Financial Advisor, Sean Lentz, wherein he found no reason for the Council not to approve of the amendments sought. Motion was then made by Platteter and seconded by Hraban to approve Resolution #2019-12 authorizing amendments to \$10,000,000 City

of Ladysmith, Wisconsin, Industrial Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2014 (Indeck Ladysmith, LLC Project) issued on July 18, 2014. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-absent.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Groothousen, seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote, with Stoneberg abstaining, to grant tavern operator's licenses to those listed on the page attached to these minutes, contingent upon approval by the LPD.

Fire Department Inspector Doug Pavlik appeared to note that he currently has the following issues with granting a Fireworks Seller's Permit to Steven Lee d/b/a Lee's Wholesale:

- There need to be working fire extinguishers on-site.
- The nearby bulk storage barrels of extracted fuel mixed with water need to be at least 300 (or 70?) feet away from the sale tent. It will likely be easiest to move the barrels.
- There is no steel container present for overnight storage of fireworks not yet sold.

Mr. Lee advised that it isn't his intent to get crossways with anyone and that he will comply with these requirements. Mr. Gorsegner also advised Mr. Lee that, in the future, it will be a good idea to get a temporary structure permit before erecting a tent. Mr. Lee replied that he will do so.

Motion was then made by Groothousen, seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to grant the Fireworks Seller's Permit to Mr. Lee contingent upon him correcting the deficiencies listed by Mr. Pavlik to the latter's satisfaction. Other details of this permit are found on the aforementioned attached page.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter called attention to a Finance meeting to be held June 25th at 4 p.m.

Mr. Platteter made a motion, which was seconded by to approve the monthly invoices.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan inquired as to the basis for issuing letters to property owners of record to mow lawns. Mr. Parker replied as follows:

- When grass is 8" or higher.
- The time frame allowed to comply is 7 days.

Mr. Morgan also asked about the stock cars parked on trailers on E. 6th St. and more in a nearby alley. It is, as yet, uncertain, whether that is within current law. There may be a 48 hour limit. Either way, it was suggested the Legal Affairs committee could consider the subject and suggest revisions to the rules.

Referring to Corbett Lake and Falge Park, Mr. Morgan stated his opinion that consideration needs to be given to a weed harvester and to continued mowing areas

adjoining the Lake. He stated that a tracked machine he has seen fitted with a blade is able to cut in what can be wet area such as this. Mr. Groothousen cautioned that it could accelerate weed growth in Corbett Lake expediting its transition into a bog.

District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:

Mr. Groothousen distributed copies of the June 19, Park Board minutes and called attention to a Planning Commission held earlier in the afternoon at which a site plan for two mini storage buildings was approved.

Mr. Groothousen made a motion which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote to allow Tom Hutnik working in concert with WRA, SHOT, Flambeau Bassmaster and, perhaps, others to install or three floating aerators and, possibly, a water fountain at Corbett Lake.

After indicating his support for this project, Adm. Christianson did say that, in the future, there needs to be a process that requires consideration of ongoing operation and maintenance costs of new or upgraded projects or facilities. He noted this also applies to the many industrial properties he developed and oversees for the City. A number of these projects were undertaken from about 1997-2012 and are starting to show their age, requiring infusions of money. Roofs are leaking, concrete is cracking or spalling, metal rails and stairs are rusting, etc.

Mr. Parker will get Mr. Groothousen a copy of the Corbett Lake Management Plan.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields asked those present to support local artists' and entertainers' efforts as both need this kind of support to make what they do worthwhile.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg advised that a Legal Affairs Committee meeting is being planned for 3:45 p.m. on Monday, July 1.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to the following:

- June 17, Public Works Committee minutes.
- June 17, All Committees meeting minutes.

Mr. Hraban made a motion and Morgan seconded to award street reconstruction design contract for W. 5th St. from Lake to near Summit Ave. to Ayres Associates in the amount of \$56,700. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-absent. Motion carried. Mr. Gorsegner alerted those present that he has three more Proposals from Ayres to consider, which relate to the following:

- Storm water drainage along W. 5th St. north of Summit Ave. and Flambeau Ave. either side of its intersection with W. 5th.
- Surface reconstruction along W. 5th St. from Summit Ave. north to Flambeau Ave.

-Surface reconstruction of Flambeau Ave. either side of its intersection with W. 5th.

Mr. Hraban then made a motion and Morgan seconded to award street reconstruction design contracts for portions of 1st St., E. 2nd St., W. 3rd St., W. 4th St. and Lake Ave. all to Morgan & Parmley in the amount of \$73,500. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-absent; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Groothousen made a motion and Fields seconded to authorize owners of property at N4883 Schmidt Rd., not in the City, to hook up to City water provided, however, that these owners sign a Permit acceptance form as attached to these minutes, which Permit also require they pay the outstanding special assessment relating to that property, which has been on file, but not effective, as the property wasn't annexed.

A number of Public Works items will be added to the July 1, All Committees agenda.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds was absent.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien and K. Gibbs:

Chief Julien had nothing to report. Chief Gibbs noted, in response to a question, that he has what appears to be a favorable Proposal in hand to remove tile from the center hallway in the fire hall where it is coming up, presumably due to moisture trapped underneath.

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

The DPW reported that storm sewer underlying the portion of Fritz Ave. (west of W. 5th) that was only planned to be repaved was found to be failing such that upgrades will be necessary. A Proposal to do so has been sought from the contractor, Haas Sons.

The DPW also reported that recent rains have slowed progress on sanitary sewer replacement in W. 5th St. N. On the other hand, some portions of Worden Ave. may be ready for a first coat of pavement by the second week of July.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson advised that WisDOT is expecting the City to sign the State Municipal Agreement before week's end so that agency can get started on land acquisitions. City failure to do so could result in delaying the project timetable. He indicated disappointment that the Agreement still calls for construction of a raised median. Motion was made by Groothousen and seconded by Fields to approve of signing and returning the State Municipal Agreement for the Lake Ave. portion of U.S. 8 to the Dept. of Transportation with a red line through the median requirement to express the City's continuing displeasure with that. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes;

Adm. Christianson reminded folks that SEH representatives will be here June 25th to review findings and ideas for conversion of either the former elementary school or the former armory into a community center.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Earlier in the meeting Mr. Kenyon advised all present that we are coming up on budget time and should be considering all these needs for funds mentioned this evening during that process.

Responding to a question about possible condemnation of the former Methodist Church Mr. Kenyon stated that the next step is for him to send a formal letter to Rusk County advising of the process and of the city's concerns and asking what the County's intentions are to address those. He went on to say that Wisconsin law once allowed local governments to assess special taxes to recover costs of follow through then changed it to special charges. He needs to revisit that change to see what it means. He also noted there is a dwelling along E. 14th St. that has been suggested for condemnation.

Mr. Kenyon noted that at a Housing RLF meeting he attended last week the Board that operates that program approved about \$36,000 in two loans, one of which provided \$5,000 toward a down payment, which he suspects a lot of potential applicants are not aware is possible. He also noted that because Ladysmith's fund did not have sufficient monies to meet both requests, the regional fund kicked in some, which was good.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson called attention to the coming weekend's Art Along the Flambeau activities and encouraged those present to try and take some of these in to show those who put forth the effort that it is appreciated.

Closed Session:

None.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____

