

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

June 25, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, B. Stoneberg. Absent: J. Pearson, M. Platteter.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, K. Gibbs, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, T. Verdegan.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. Stoneberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Council meeting with the following noted:
-That M. Hraban seconded the motion to approve expenditure of \$1,435 to complete wiring on Lake Ave. rail display.
-That B. Morgan voted no on spending \$5,500 to investigate the feasibility of developing the former WWTF grounds at the south end of E. 3rd St. as a residential subdivision.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Mr. Carlson stated that he would like to be placed on PW Committee agendas to discuss aspects of Corbett Lake management.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Comptroller Verdegan briefly reviewed the 2017 year-end balance in the general fund and asked that it be approved so that the audit can be finalized. Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the 2017 year-end fund balances indicated on attached Schedule B-2. Mrs. Verdegan mentioned that a budget amendment will need to be adopted at some point as non-budget funds have been applied to the 2018 budget. And that auditor April Anderson will plan to appear Monday, July 16th to review results of the City's 2017 audit.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to adopt Resolution #2018-14, a resolution authorizing official representation by Mayor to file applications for financial assistance from State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to adopt Resolution #2018-15 declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures for Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) project and other funding sources for the 2018 Fritz and Worden Avenue, and Summit Avenue and W. 5th St. N. projects. Roll call vote: Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent. Motion carried.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter was absent.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan stated that he is aware that there are grant dollars available for outdoor recreation purposes and asked why we aren't seeking them. Atty. Kenyon replied that existing staff are fully occupied so don't have the time. He went on to say, however, that engineering firms the City regularly uses have grant writers on staff who can be hired to do this work.

Mr. Morgan stated that brushing recently done around Corbett Lake looks good.

Mr. Morgan asked why there has been no action on a roof to protect the caboose and boxcar at the visitor center rail display. Discussion will be added to the next All Committees agenda.

Mr. Fields noted that donor Sue Moore has concerns about what is to be displayed at the Lake Ave. rail display and suggested Mr. Morgan review this with Ms. Moore. Mr. Morgan stated that too many people got involved in planning that facility resulting in it being too small to house the green Railway Express Agency cart that had been anticipated. That cart will, instead, be displayed at the visitor center.

Mr. Morgan expressed support for holiday lighting on Old Smoky and suggested anyone working on that contact Ace manager Kevin Lehman to coordinate. Mayor Christianson mentioned the brief discussion related to possible addition of down lighting similar to that over Sweet Soo.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the June 18, All Committees meeting.

Mr. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve the monthly invoices.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields made a motion, which was seconded by M. Hraban to approve expenditure of \$150 from TIFD #8 to upgrade electrical that serves the current farmer's market location. Mr. Morgan asked if this was duplicative of the wiring being completed at the Lake Ave.

rail display. It was explained that while this is indeed nearby, it involves extending power nearer to the area the farmer's is using to support coolers, music and other uses. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-no; Morgan-no. Eyebrows raised. Motion carried.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban advised that there will be a Public Works Committee meeting at 3 p.m. Monday, July 2, prior to the All Committees meeting.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson was absent.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

LPD Chief Julien had nothing to report.

LFD Chief Gibbs reported that he plans to attend one Council meeting per month. He then stated that Atty. Kenyon has clarified for him practices that need to be followed to run revenues through City books, adding that those will be followed. He went on to say that LFD also has a Department controlled fund based on fund raisers it holds including pancake breakfasts and fireman's ball. It may have a \$5,000 balance, but not the \$15,000 that some seem to think. Monies from this fund are used for outlays such as cookouts and memorials.

Chief Gibbs also noted that the fire hall is now at that age (20+ years) where some repairs will be needed. There is currently broken flooring inside main entry and doors are rusting on north side owing to occasional standing water.

There was brief mention of difficulties that would be incurred trying to house one fire truck on the east side of the CN main line.

Adm. Christianson asked Chief Gibbs if he feels 10-year certification of equipment such as air bottles is always warranted or if some of the motive may be moreso to create a steady market for these products. The Chief replied by saying wear parts do go bad but he, too, wonders that same thing.

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

The DPW asked for approval of several MSA invoices for recent work, as follows. Motion was then made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of \$2,717.58 for work on W. 2nd St. S. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was then made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve payment of \$8,251 for work on Center Ave., Pederson Ave. and E. 8th St. S. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Fields and seconded by M. Hraban to approve payment of \$3,375 for SDWLP administration. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve the low bid of Scott Construction in the amount of \$63,809, for chip sealing selected streets. A second bid was over twice as high. This bid was increased slightly on a unit cost basis to include a second coat on a portion of E. 11th St. S. and a longer stretch on E. 16th St. south of Menasha. The budget was \$80,000. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes. Motion carried. As a portion of E. 16th St. is in the Tn. of Flambeau's jurisdiction, the Town will reimburse the City \$3,267.

The DPW advised that final paving on E. 8th St., Center and Pederson Ave. should begin June 27th.

It was noted that, at its meeting last week, the Planning Commission approved a site plan for two mini storage buildings along Doughty Rd.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson recommended payment of an invoice from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$8,497.01, which is for the City's shared use from 2011-2017 of a storm water detention basin just west of that firm's local store here. The City's use pertains to storm water coming off W. 10th St. S. and a portion of Port Arthur Rd. This was provided for in a Development Agreement enacted between the city and Wal-Mart prior to the store being constructed. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried. DPW Gorseger will add this cost as a budget line so that it will be provided for in the future.

Adm. Christianson noted that there are currently several signs of positive turnaround in the local economy, which has been sluggish for a decade:

- New commercial construction underway.
- Sales and upgrades of downtown properties such as Jim's Mobil and Goffin Oil.
- Local average weekly wage has moved up to 40th.

Adm. Christianson called attention to an invoice from NWRPC seeking payoffs from the City to the City Housing RLF fund administered by that agency to clear mortgages on two dwelling purchased by the City and later removed, which have apparently been outstanding for years.

- \$450 on 901 Barnett Rd.

-\$5,683 on 511 Fritz Ave. W.

Mention was made of a possible Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert here. More information will be provided at the next All Committees meeting.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson advised that, at a recent Main Street training session, discussion leaders advocated going the extra step to accommodate the elderly. He cited examples of how and when such opportunities might arise and how easily their needs might be overlooked even when right in front of us. He also cited personal experience with his grandparents.

The Mayor reported that he will ask city staff to assist with providing orientation to Youth Commission members, to include a brief on Robert's Rules of Order.

The Mayor announced that he will turn the gavel over to Council Pres. Hraban when his permit application for a fireworks permit comes up and that he will leave the room entirely after he answers any questions that may arise.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's permit to Trista M. DeWitt contingent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a Direct Seller's Permit to Darrell Hoffman d/b/a Hoffman's Concessions to operate a vending trailer in Memorial Park most weekends and some weekdays, weather permitting, except during Mardi Gras.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve a Street Use Permit for Greater Ladysmith Area Chamber of Commerce, Whitney Trott agent, for Mardi Gras Arts and Crafts Fair to be held Saturday, July 16, from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Fields to grant a Fireworks User Permit to Mayor Christianson. As announced the Mayor passed the gavel to Council Pres. Hraban and took a seat in the audience. After answering questions about proximity of neighbors, anticipated trajectory of fireworks, size of fireworks planned, what other activity will accompany fireworks, and similar questions, the Mayor left the room.

Discussion followed during which the following were among concerns raised:

- July 4, is a weeknight and even if stopped at 10 p.m. that still might cost residents sleep.
- The 400 E. 6th St. address is a residential area, with some elderly people.
- The Police Chief indicated general dislike for fireworks because they are so widespread even though not permitted and require a lot of response time. Practice is to let folks off

on a first complaint, but to issue tickets if those asked to stop do not. Upon questioning, neither the Police or Fire Chief indicated opposition to this specific permit. Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Fields to grant the permit request, which motion was defeated by voice vote.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____