

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

Monday, June 14, 2021

5:15 pm

Ladysmith City Council Chamber

Members Present: M. Platteter, B. Morgan, J. Pohlman III, G. Schueller, J. West, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds

Others Present: K. Vacho, T. Devine, Adm A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, K. Gorseger, D. Parker, J. Pohlman II, Police Chief Julien, C. Pohlman, L. Klink

Call to Order: Mayor K. Vacho called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Roll Call: Dep. Clerk took roll call and a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance: J. West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes and Agenda: Motion by A. Hraban to approve the June 14th, 2021 Council Agenda, and the May 24th Council Minutes, seconded by J. West. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Introductions, Hearings & Public Comments:

- a) Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2021-08 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to \$480,529 Sewer System and Water System Revenue Bonds Series 2021, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants with Respect Thereto:

Administrator Christianson explained that this is borrowing for the 'Water' portion of the street work that is in progress. It has an interest rate of 0.891%. Most of the 'Sewer' portion of the street work is covered by principal forgiveness, and from current cash flows.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Platteter to approve Resolution 2021-08.

Roll Call Vote: M. Platteter-Yes, B. Morgan-Yes, J. Pohlman-Yes, G. Schueller-Yes, J. West-Yes, A. Hraban-Yes, M. Reynolds-Yes. Motion carries 7-0.

- b) Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2021-09 Wastewater Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR).

Mr. Gorseger explained that the CMAR report is a yearly report on the Waste Water Treatment performance. It is mandatory that the Council be given the opportunity to review it. The City received 'A' grades in every category with the exception of financial management. The DNR insists on approval by resolution so they know the Council has seen and reviewed the CMAR report.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban to approve Resolution 2021-09 Wastewater Compliance Maintenance Annual Report.

Additional discussion clarified that the current street construction is not included in this CMAR report. Additionally, the 'F' grade for Financial Management has been ongoing for several years, and a rate review, and increase is likely necessary. The auditors have done a review of the rates and suggested an increase. It needs to go through committees, a public hearing, and get Council approval.

Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

- c) Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2021-10 Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) and Clean Water Fund (CWF) Program Projects for the 2022 Reconstruction of E 10th St N, Lindoo Avenue and Summit Avenue with Water & Sewer Reconstruction.

Mr. Gorsegner explained that this is a necessary step to have in place if we need to borrow money for the aforementioned 2022 reconstruction project. We are not committing to borrow anything at this point.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-10 by J. Pohlman, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion carries by voice vote.

- d) Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2021-11 Authorizing Official Representation by City Administrator to File Applications for Financial Assistance from State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund.

Administrator Christianson explained that this gives him the authority to sign the paperwork. It's standard practice in The City, but State wants a resolution for each project.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-11 by M. Platteter, seconded by J. Pohlman. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

- e) Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2021-12 Approving City Sale to Marshfield Medical Center.

Administrator Christianson explained that this is something that the title company wanted to have on record prior to closing on the sale of the 'old Mount Senario athletic field' to Marshfield Medical Center. The Resolution merely restates what the Council already voted to do.

Mr. Reynolds pointed out a typo in the resolution that does not materially alter the resolution but should be fixed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-12 (with correction) by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban.

Roll call vote: M. Platteter-Yes, B. Morgan-Yes, J. Pohlman-Yes, G. Schueller-Yes, J. West-Yes, A. Hraban-Yes, M. Reynolds

District 1, Platteter: There was a property committee meeting to look at the Fire Hall and train display to be painted by Ryan Jack Painting. It was decided that the Fire Hall was not to be painted this year. The bid for painting of the train display should go forward, and will be presented at the June 28th Council Meeting.

District 2, Morgan: There was a Park Board meeting on Wednesday, June 9th. The discussion of rehabilitating the tennis courts / pickleball court was tabled until we can get the organizations using it to be more involved.

In the Public Works meeting there was discussion and possible action on the purchase of a new end-loader. The Public Works Committee approved recommending to Council the purchase of a new end-loader.

Motion to approve the purchase of the new end-loader for trade in plus \$90,981 by B. Morgan, seconded by A. Hraban.

Additional discussion involved the fact that The City has three end-loaders, and questioned that we need a third at all, much less a new one. Mr. Reynolds offered that we got 25 years out of the old machine. The cost of repairing it, for what it's worth, doesn't make sense. Additionally, if we get 25 years out of the new one, the annual cost is only around \$4,000. Discussion then covered the use of the end-loader for snow removal, and how expeditious removal of snow is important to avoid creating a months-long problem. This particular loader is also used in the Cemetery for digging graves due to its smaller size. The other two loaders cannot be used for this purpose.

Roll call vote: M. Reynolds-Yes, M. Platteter-Yes, B. Morgan-No, J. Pohlman-Yes, G. Schueller-Yes, J. West-No, A. Hraban-Yes. Motion Carries 5-2.

District 3, Pohlman: Farmer's Market has started up again. Mr. Pohlman would like to get a Legal Affairs meeting pulled together. In reviewing the City's ordinances, some are outdated, and need attention.

Mr. Kenyon feels, with the recent controlled substance arrests, and the moratorium on evictions, we can put some things in place to make it easier for the landlords to deal with troublesome tenants.

District 4, Schueller: There will be a transit meeting June 18th at 5:00.

District 5, West: There was a Personnel Committee meeting on June 14th. The Committee approved the hiring of 2 additional summer help workers (Rachael Kostka and Austin Lloyd), bringing the total number of summer help workers to 13. We're still looking to hire 2 more.

Motion to approve the hiring of the 2 mentioned applicants if they pass the drug test by J. West, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Personnel Committee approved recommending to Council the creation of a "Public Works employee eligibility list", since the recent resignations exhausted what pool of potential employees we had.

Motion to approve the creation of a Public Works employee eligibility list by J. West, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

District 6, Hraban: Library will be open full-time starting July 1st. Mrs. Pohlman added that the Library is no longer in non-compliance.

District 7, Reynolds: Fox 25/48 ran a news feature on Rusk Co. which included 30 second tourism ads. They have contacted Administrator Christianson and offered roughly double the number of ad spots for \$2,500.

Motion to approve allocating \$2,500 for regional advertising by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban.

Roll call vote: M. Platteter-Yes, B. Morgan-Yes, J. Pohlman-Yes, G. Schueller-Yes, J. West-Yes, A. Hraban-Yes, M. Reynolds-Yes.

Police & Fire Commission: June's Police & Fire Commission meeting will be on the 23rd.

Chief Julien completed an instructor development course.

Mayor Vacho offered congratulations on the recent drug bust.

Mr. Kenyon and Chief Julien are working on changing/adding an ordinance that will make it easier for a landlord to evict tenants if their house is labeled as a 'drug house' or a 'gang house'. This should be initiated in Legal Affairs.

Chief related that we have had some ATV activity in Memorial Park. Maybe enhanced signage would help.

John Pohlman II asked what the status was on the stop signs at the railroad crossings. Some people are ignoring the sign on 8th St S. The Chief this could fall under the jurisdiction of the railroad police.

Public Works:

Review and possible approval of Change Order #1 from Haas & Sons for \$4,771 on Downtown Street Reconstruction:

On 3rd Street, they ran into some unexpected issues and had to excavate further into the alley to remove an unnecessary 'T' in the water line. They also ran into an old coal chute on the East side of 3rd Street, excavated it, and filled it.

Motion by A. Hraban to approve Change Order #1 from Haas & Sons for \$4,771 on the 2021 Downtown Street Reconstruction, seconded by J. Pohlman.

Roll Call vote: M. Platteter-Yes, B. Morgan-Yes, J. Pohlman-Yes, G. Schueller-Abs., J. West-Abs., A. Hraban-Yes, M. Reynolds-Yes.

Mr. Gorsegner advised that he received an email from Theresa Anderson of MSA. She is putting out 4 traffic counters around town for the DOT.

Mr. Gorsegner had handed out a bill for \$31,143.39 for the preliminary engineering on the Lake Ave mill and repave project. The project was bid out again last week, and again all bids came in higher than expected. The state is reviewing it to determine whether they'll proceed with the project this year. We should know in the next couple weeks.

Mr. Gorsegner informed the Council that Eric VanDoorn has resigned as Street Superintendent. His last day will be June 25th.

Mr. Gorsegner advised that the railroad will be replacing the crossing at Doughty Road. Traffic will be detoured for the week of June 21st -25th. The County will be posting detour signs.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Christianson advised that Rusk County Farm Supply has broken ground on their new fertilizer plant in the Industrial Park.

Attorney's Report: Nothing to report.

Licenses and Permits: No Licenses and Permits.

Mayor's Forum:

Mr. Vacho clarified that the role of the Council members is as a policy maker, not as a manager. If a Council member has a question or complaint, please go to the head of the department. Do NOT go directly to employees. This creates a toxic overreach of government decrees. Employees need to be able to rely on council for guidance, and not to be talked down to. They get enough of that from the public. It needs to stop now. Council members should address issues through Mr. Gorsegner, Mr. Christianson, Mr. Vacho, Chief Julien, or Chief Gibbs.

Motion to Adjourn by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote (6-0).

Adjourn at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Devine, Deputy Clerk