

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF
THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**

Monday, June 28, 2021 5:15 pm Ladysmith City Council Chambers

Members Present: M. Platteter, B. Morgan, J. Pohlman, III, G. Schueller (at 5:20 pm), J. West, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds, Mayor K. Vacho

Others present: K. Gorsegner, A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, S. Kavanagh, D. Parker, Chief Kyle Gibbs, Luke Klink Gayle Novak, Ray Carlson, Pam Warner, Monte Pearson.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by A. Hraban.

Minutes and Agenda. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Platteter, to approve the June 14, 2021 Council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passes with unanimous voice vote.

District 1, Platteter.

Painting at Rail Display. Council members reviewed the proposal submitted by Ryan Jack Painting Co. to power wash the locomotive and 3 rail cars, along with applying undercarriage paint and exterior paint to those rail cars. Motion by M. Platteter, seconded by B. Morgan, to approve Ryan Jack Painting Co's proposal to power wash and paint the locomotive and 3 rail cars for \$22,700, expense to be covered by TID #9. M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-yes, J. Pohlman-yes, G. Schueller-sustain, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion passes with 6-yes, 1-sustain.

Railroad Display To Do List. Mr. Carlson reviewed the To Do list that was included in the council packet of projects that still need to be completed at the rail display.

Mr. Morgan reported that Ken Phillips has been working on repairs to the locomotive and a couple of rail cars; Thompson Excavating has leveled up the ground around the rail display and added some fill dirt around the posts; Dave Kmosena has power raked the site; Dave Roth has power washed and painted the ramp along with installing new batten boards and fixing the doors on the west end. Mr. Morgan has made contact with someone to replace the caboos siding which is badly deteriorating. There is a group that is also willing to clean the caboos and main coach along with the locomotive in the near future.

District 2, Morgan. Mr. Morgan reported receiving a letter from a concerned citizen about park projects that need to be done and she was invited to attend the next Park Board meeting.

District 3, Pohlman. Mr. Pohlman asked that a Legal Affairs meeting be set up for July 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm; items for that committee agenda will be provided to the City Administrator in the near future.

District 4, Schueller. The Police & Fire Commission met last week. At that meeting, Mr. Schueller learned about time tests that are performed by fire department personnel and they passed “with flying colors”! To date the Fire Dept has responded to 58 calls. The Police Department has been putting in a lot of overtime; PD officers will provide coverage during the Mardi Gras festivities.

District 5, West. Mr. West reported that at the recent Personnel Committee meeting, Monte Pearson was approved to fill the Street Superintendent position. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve the appointment of Monte Pearson as Street Superintendent. Motion passes by voice vote 7 yes-0-no.

Mr. West asked that a Personnel Committee meeting be scheduled to look over the Street Superintendent job description and make any necessary additions/deletions. Monte Pearson was invited to attend that committee meeting to provide input.

District 6, Hraban. The Finance Committee met before this meeting and a motion was made to approve the monthly invoices. Transit Commission met last week and he will provide minutes of that meeting to council members once received.

District 7, Reynolds. Music on Miner is scheduled for Friday, July 2nd with featured music by Virginia Steele; everyone was invited to attend. Joint Management will be meeting on June 30 at 2:00 pm to review improvement plans at the Rusk County Community Library and will be reviewing plans for a new business interested in coming into Ladysmith.

Mr. Kenyon provided various farm implement magazines to Mr. Reynolds in hopes that the Plow Museum could be advertised in some of those publications and also suggested advertising our area in the free publication that features Northwoods festivals and attractions.

Police & Fire Report. Chief Gibbs reported that 3 exterior doors will be replaced in July; two east side doors and one front door.

Public Works Report.

Ruby’s Pantry Traffic Flow. Pam Warner appeared to update the council on Red Cedar Church’s new outreach project entitled Ruby’s Pantry. Their first event serviced between 280-300 cars and created a need to use additional on-street parking as overflow. The parking lot at the former Creamery/Worden Exchange holds approximately 180 cars. Ms. Warner asked permission to place “No Parking” signs on the second Thursday of every month from 2 pm – 6 pm for cars to proceed west down Worden Ave to W 2nd Street, then south to Lindoo Ave, east on Lindoo Ave down to 6th Street, north on 6th St and then west back to the Creamery. The Knights of Columbus are being asked to provide help directing traffic. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, that we approve this request for the placement of “No Parking” signs, with the understanding that Ruby’s Pantry will have people there to direct traffic safely and with the understanding that it is a benevolent operation and we will do whatever we can as a council to assist them with their traffic flow. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Making W 3rd St from Worden Ave to Miner Ave a Two Way Street. The Ladysmith News believes that opening up W 3rd St again to two way traffic would be an improvement. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to open up W 3rd St from Worden Ave to Miner Ave to two way traffic. Motion carries with unanimous voice vote.

Highway 8 Project Update. DPW Gorsegner reported that the State of Wisconsin did award the Lake Ave (Hwy 8) mill and overlay project but the construction start date and timelines have not been released yet. The highway project will include Lake Ave to the bridge and then from the end of the bridge to River Ave; 2” of concrete will be removed/replaced and pedestrian cut outs will be installed to accommodate ADA requirements at all crosswalks. The City’s portion of the project is approximately \$8-9,000 to cover the cost of manholes and adjustment of valves.

The flashing light that is currently in place at 2nd Street W and Lake Ave is not state authorized so it will be taken out but the City will look into replacing the light at a later time.

Administrator’s Report. Adm Christianson passed out a proposal from SEH addressing the need for environmental services at a potential site for Rockwell Automation’s proposed expansion. The remediation case that was done in the 1980’s and early 1990’s has been considered closed. If we wish to build on that site, filing a Post Closure Modification Request would be required. SEH’s proposal includes preparing a letter to WDNR clarifying steps proposed to allow acceptance of the Post Closure Modification Request and file the Form 4400-237 along with the \$1,350 DNR filing fee. SEH would also be performing the investigation work which would include drilling bore holes and preparing a site investigation report. The estimated cost of this work is between \$16,000-\$19,000. Motion by J. Pohlman to table this proposal until the next council meeting.

Assuming that the environmental assessment is approved at a future meeting, the City would also need to have design work done for the proposed Rockwell Automation addition.

Attorney’s Report. Atty Kenyon mentioned a roll call vote can be requested after any motion, even if not required and he also voiced concern over the 97 year old sewer that runs down 3rd Street. A. Hraban asked that a “walking quorum” be explained. Atty Kenyon explained that it is prohibited for council members to discuss city business outside a public meeting. When this happens, the public’s business has not been conducted in public at the council table; it has been conducted over the phone or email. Atty Kenyon reminded everyone that the League of Wisconsin Municipalities offers a “Local Officials 101” course for new city officials that is very informative but also a great refresher course for longstanding city officials.

Licenses and Permits.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Reynolds, to approve Operator Licenses for Alexis Roberts, Jacqueline Peppers, ToryAnna Paulsen, Anita Sanderson, Brenda Rowe and Tracy Scoles along with Temporary Operator Licenses for Randall Scott, Anthony Devine and Gene Zillmer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by J. Pohlman, to approve the Street Permit for the Rusk Area Chamber of Commerce to hold the Mardi Gras Craft Fair on July 17, 2021 on Miner Avenue from W 2nd St to East 2nd Street. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.


Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve the Temporary Class "B" Retailer's License for the Exhausted Roosters to hold their Beer Garden during the Mardi Gras from July 15, 2021 through July 18, 2021. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve the Direct Seller's Permit for Tree-Ripe Fruit Co. in the Ace Hardware for sales of produce. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by M. Platteter, to approve the Class "B" Beer license for Lakshivam Real Estate LLC for the Ladysmith Motel and Suites. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Reynolds, adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted.


Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk