

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
July 25, 2016 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, R. Moore, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: M. Platteter.

Others present: A. Anderson, A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, A. Lobermeier, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker, J. Pohlman, T. Verdegan.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. A. Hraban 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 July 11, 2016 Council meeting.

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:

There were no appearances at a Public Hearing on several proposed modifications to the Municipal Code of Ordinances.

Auditor April Anderson from CliftonLarsonAllen reviewed the City's 2015 audit results. Her presentation concluded shortly before 7 p.m.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to adopt Resolution #2016-17, a final resolution to approve levying special assessments against abutting owners benefitted by improvements made in the 400 block of Corbett Ave. W. Mr. Pohlman questioned whether the 5.5% interest rate is necessary. It was noted, in response, that folks have the option of paying assessments immediately, if they are able, or borrowing at lower interest if they are able for the same purpose. This is just another option for them. It was suggested the Legal Affairs Committee look at this when it meets next.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to approve Ordinance #2016-06 approving Direct Seller's Permits Limitations.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Ordinance #2016-07 Amending the Notice Time for Common Council meetings. After noting that submissions of Council minutes seem improved, Mr. Pohlman stated

that the Library Board and other board and commission minutes still seem to be submitted on an untimely basis on occasion.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Ordinance #2016-08 Amending Common Council Committee Makeup to provide for identifying substitutes for each of seven standing Council committees.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by a. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Ordinance #2016-09 Amending Public Works Construction Bid Requirements.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Moore to adopt Ordinance #2016-10 Amending Public Hearing Requirements. Mr. Pohlman questioned whether it is a good idea to take action that appears to minimize public input at a time when that is what State government seems to be doing. As the Mayor's call for a voice vote brought no response, this ordinance amendment was referred back to the Legal Affairs Committee for possible modification to make clear that, although a public hearing may not be required on a specific ordinance amendment, that the Council is not precluded from holding a hearing if it chooses to have one.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter was absent. Mr. Parker reported that after he was approached by former Skate Board Coalition leader Matt Zona about the current condition of the skate park it was decided to close the park for safety reasons until needed repairs can be made. This, in turn, resulted in parents of users asking that these repairs be made soon. A Youth and Recreation Committee meeting will be planned with this as its focus as soon as Chair M. Platteter returns.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan reported that the Personnel Committee will be meeting soon to consider personnel compensation impacts on the 2017 budget.

Mr. Morgan also noted that he would like the City to get quotes to put covers over the restored cabooses and boxcars at the visitor center. He noted that these vintage cars are too nice to leave them out in the weather if they are to stay that way. He would like to consult with Morgan & Parmley about designing such protective structure. A mono-pitch to the east might have advantages.

Mr. Morgan advised that the Animal Control Board is dealing with a large population of feral cats, but is limited by the number of traps on hand to loan out.

Mr. Morgan also noted that Mr. Carlson was upset when some black paint leftover from repainting Old Smoky seemed to be missing. It was apparently used to paint lampposts in Memorial Park.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban enumerated new expenditure items he believes the City is likely to need to address in 2017. As the general operations budget almost certainly won't have the flexibility to address many, if any, of these items, borrowing will likely be necessary. He will provide a letter reviewing these needs. He also called attention to projects underway, like upgrades to the rail displays and development of Pioneer Park, noting that we may not be able to replace the time donated by the current volunteers such that the City may have to increase staffing to keep such improvements properly maintained. Somebody may need to be on call to respond to requests to view the rail display. He suggested that if and when the armory is deeded back to the City, selling it might be another way to raise needed revenues.

Mr. Hraban will get Mr. Christianson a list of items that need to be addressed at a Property Committee meeting.

District Four, Mr. R. Moore:

Mr. Moore, as Finance Committee Chair, advised that he has talked with the Comptroller and that work on the 2017 budget will begin in earnest in August.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg said that Water Dept. worker Rod Hampton provided her a demo of how the City's sewer jetter works adding that she was amazed at what it is capable of.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban asked other members if they could make a Public Works Committee meeting at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 28th. Both indicated this will work.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson highlighted items considered at the recent Park Board meeting. She also noted that she is available for a Community Development Committee meeting most any date except August 17th.

Mayor Reynolds commented at length about folks building just outside the City limits and using City services without contributing toward the cost. As an example he noted that three fourths of those who use Memorial Park are likely non-residents. On top of that visitors complain about the condition of area property, some of which is outside the City so beyond City control. He also expressed concern with negative commentary and concluded by saying this City has a good deal to be proud of and more emphasis is needed on the positives.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:

Chief Lobermeier stated that the recent Mardi Gras was the best one he has seen in his time here, with very few problems, which left him with a good feeling. He also stated he will soon start having officers stop by meetings to introduce them to the Council, some of whom might not be acquainted.

Mr. M. Hraban added that the ITS bus carried 627 Mardi Gras passengers, which he feels helped reduce congestion.

Attention was called to a drug identification session to be put on July 27th by Lt. Julien.

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

The DPW recommended approval of Change Order No. 2 with Olynick, Inc. on the Corbett Ave. project, in the amount of (-)\$1,302.96, which he explained is a deductive alternate reflecting actual materials used, which were somewhat less than expected. And results in net change orders of \$397.40 for the project. Motion was then made by M. Hraban and seconded by Morgan to approve. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Perason-yes; Platteter-absent. Motion carried.

The DPW also recommended approval of Request for Payment No. 2 on the same project, in the amount of \$85,084.12, which leaves only retainage of \$2,000 still owing. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Morgan to approve. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

In his capacity as Building Inspector, Mr. Gorsegner reported that the owners of a recently fire damaged dwelling at 500 River Ave. E. have requested that the City hold off on any condemnation action until interactions with the insurer are further advanced.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson recalled that the CD Committee had forwarded a project to the Council for its consideration, which involves preparation of an initial group of a dozen "Ladysmith History Notes" that would be intended to both promote and educate people about local history, with the intent of increasing interest in it. A question was raised whether vintage building photos might be added. Mayor Reynolds noted that use of the cameo lends uniformity. This will go back to Committee for further review.

Mr. Pohlman stated his support for placing a Ladysmith History Note at Ranger Hill, adding that it's "a piece of history" that cannot be replaced once its gone. He also noted that in the 39 years he has been in Ladysmith there hasn't been a maintenance budget line. He suggested the time has come to create one.

Adm. Christianson also noted that recently installed way-finding signs at the intersection of Doughty Rd. point west on Blackberry Lane and East on Doughty to tube launch and take out locations. This works on Blackberry where it is straight ahead. Not so along Doughty where there is a T at County G with no further directions. He suggested making three more take out/launch signs at a cost of \$110 each from the Community Aids line to complete needed signage. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Moore to approve. Roll call vote: Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-absent; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mayor Reynolds commented earlier in the meeting.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a Direct Seller's Permit to Skylar Black d/b/a Tree Ripe Citrus of Johnson Creek, WI. Sales will take place on the Ace Home Center parking lot, with peaches and blueberries featured in the summer and citrus and pecans in winter. The license period is from July 26, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned 8:17 p.m.