

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

Monday, July 12, 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. Gorsegner, Kenny Tomasewski, Robert Lincoln, Andy Strom, Amy Kelsey, Dan Penzkover

**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:** M. Reynolds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes and Agenda:** Motion by A. Hraban to approve the July 12th, 2021 Council Agenda, the June 28<sup>th</sup> Council Minutes, and the July 1<sup>st</sup> Council Minutes, seconded by J. Pohlman. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

**Introductions, Hearings & Public Comments:**

- a) Public Hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project for the Five Downtown Streets Reconstruction and Water and Sewer Improvements:

Amy Kelsey from Cooper Engineering recapped that the CDBG program's is investment in infrastructure and public building projects. The program supports public investment and contributes to the overall community and economic development.

The budget for the 5 Downtown Street Project was approximately \$1.9 million. The city also obtained funding from the DNR Environmental Improvement Fund in the for of loans of approximately \$880,000, with principal forgiveness of approximately \$400,000, which is considered match for the project. The City is also incurring cost for sanitary sewer elements using funds from the Sewer Utility.

The City is eligible for CDBG funding every two years. This was applied for in 2020, so the City will again be eligible in 2022.

Ms. Kelsey recapped the work that is being performed on the Five Downtown Streets:

On 1<sup>st</sup> St – From Worden to Fritz: Replace 4" cast iron water main with an 8" PVC water main. Replace storm sewer inlets at the 1<sup>st</sup> & Fritz intersection. Reconstruct the street, curb & gutter, and sidewalk.

From Worden to Miner: Replace the existing 2" dead-end water main with an 8" PVC looped water main. Replace existing storm sewer and sanitary sewer, then reconstruct the street.

On E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. – From the railroad right of way to Miner Ave: Replace the water main and the water services, and reconstruct the street.

On Lake Ave. – E 3<sup>rd</sup> St to E 5<sup>th</sup> St: Replace 4” cast iron water main with an 8” PVC water main. Replace the existing storm sewers. Replace existing sanitary sewer and manholes. Reconstruct the street.

On West 3<sup>rd</sup> St. – From Worden to Lake Ave: Loop water main with 8” PVC water main. Replace existing storm sewer. Replace existing sanitary sewer. Reconstruct the street.

On West 4<sup>th</sup> St. – From Corbett to Fritz: Replace 4” cast iron water main with 8” PVC. Replace existing storm sewer. Replace old clay sanitary sewer. Reconstruct the street.

Construction started on April 19<sup>th</sup>. To date, there have been no major hold-ups. The first layer of asphalt is down on all but 1st St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

No comments from public.

b) Appearance by Andy Strom from Rusk Area Chamber of Commerce regarding promotion efforts:

Mr. Strom presented that the Chamber’s goal is to promote our community as a great place to eat, play, shop or live. This is done through involvement in various events like The Rusk Area Spring Expo, Community Awards, The Mardi Gras Arts and Crafts Fair, Leaf It to Rusk, Winter Magic and several more.

The Chamber has a ‘Live Rusk County’ marketing campaign, which encourages people to visit Rusk County for recreation with the long-term goal of increasing residents.

Mr. Strom played 4 advertisement The Chamber is airing. They highlight a girl’s weekend in Ladysmith, the local music scene, winter activities, and the benefits of residing in Rusk County.

The Chamber’s office is located in the Visitor’s Center, and is open from 9 -4.

**District 1, Platteter:** Mr. Platteter was contacted by someone in his district wondering why the RCTC was ending door-to-door service in Ladysmith. Mr. Hraban is the Transit contact. He advised that, from his understanding, people with handicaps/disabilities can still get door-to-door service. Mr. Hraban will advise further after discussing with Sheryl Kisling.

**District 2, Morgan:** Mr. Morgan would like the Property Committee to look at the “old Miller lots” on corbett Ave. Maybe we could sell them.

There was a Park Board meeting on Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. It approved recommending to Council to accept a \$1,000 bid from Ron Young to cut cattails at Corbett Lake.

**District 3, Pohlman:** Farmer’s Market has been granted their non-profit status. That opens them up for grant funds.

Legal Affairs meeting is scheduled for Monday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:15.

**District 4, Schueller:** Nothing to report.

**District 5, West:** Nothing to report.

**District 6, Hraban:** There is a Finance Committee meeting Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:15, and a Library Board meeting on the same day at 5:00.

**District 7, Reynolds:** Joint Review Board met on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the TIF Districts. District 8 was created in 2003 and ends in 2025, District 9 was created in 2006 and ends in 2021, District 10 was created in 2007 and ends in 2022, District 11 was created in 2011 and ends in 2026. The plans for the new districts (13, 14 & 15) and the annual reports for the existing districts were approved by the Board.

Join Management is in the process of planning repairs on the library's roof, as well as the siding on the North and South end of the building.

**Police & Fire Commission:** Nothing to report.

**Public Works:** Mr. Gorsegner has a price from Rusk County to pave the pulverized drive in OJ Falge Park, as well as the parking lot. The price is large enough that, if we do not commission the County to pave it, it would need to be bid out. Mr. Reynolds pointed out that the agenda has it down for discussion, but no action. Action item should be on the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.

Mr. Gorsegner advised that the water treatment plant had an electrical malfunction on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, effectively disabling it. He would like to commend Doug Wiles for dropping his vacation plans, returning to Ladysmith and getting the plant back to operational. Completing the repairs will take some time, but the plant is currently functioning.

**Administrator's Report:**

- a) Mr. Christianson introduced Dan Penzkover from SEC to talk about environmental issues surrounding the potential Rockwell Automation expansion. Mr. Penzkover explained that the property in question had some contamination issues, but roughly 30 years ago, it was "closed" when a parking lot was put down. If Rockwell wants to expand, there are some steps that the DNR would require. It would need a "Post-Closure Modification Report", which would require some additional sampling to determine what level the contamination currently is. If the contamination is still present, Rockwell could still build. But there may be additional ventilation requirements. Mr. Reynolds would like to save action on this, and the proposal from SHE on design work for the proposed Rockwell expansion, until after a closed session discussion. Mr. Christianson advised that the expansion is not imminent, and the discussion could wait for a closed session.
- b) Mr. Penzkover explained that the design work for the proposed expansion was still in the early stages. Mr. Christianson suggested the Council review the documentation, and continue the discussion at the aforementioned closed session.
- c) Mr. Christianson introduced Robert Lincoln as a representative of the VMA. They would like to repave their parking lot, and they would like Rusk County to perform the work. However, the County cannot contract with private entities. So, the VMA would like to use the City as a 'pass-through' entity to commission Rusk County to perform the work. Mr. Reynolds made a motion that the Council works with the VMA and the County to accomplish the paving of the VMA lot, seconded by Mr. West. In additional discussion, Mr. Lincoln advised that the price isn't as important to the VMA as keeping the money spent as local as possible. Mr. Kenyon questioned how this construction benefits the City. Mr. Christianson offered that it could serve as an

emergency center location. Mr. Reynolds offered that the functions the VMA puts on benefit the City by bringing people in. Mr. Kenyon noted that the City may not legally be allowed to serve as this type of pass-through entity, and would like a couple weeks to research the law. Mr. West called the question, ending the discussion. Motion carries by a 6-1 voice vote.

**Attorney's Report:** Mr. Kenyon noted that a tourism periodical distributed at the local Kwik Trip didn't include anything about Rusk County. Mr. Strom is aware of it, but doesn't know why Rusk County was missed.

Mr. Kenyon directed attention to The Municipality newsletter's article on changes in how Room Tax is used.

Legal Affairs will meet to consider changes to Sec. 11-6-5(1) allowing termination of tenancy in the condition of Drug Houses and Gang Houses, even if rents are current.

**Licenses and Permit:** Motion by J Pohlman to approve Temporary Class B License for the Ladysmith Firefighters, the Temporary Operators License for Doug Pavlik, Brian Eichner and Dave Scott. Seconded by A. Hraban, motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Reynolds to approve the Operator Licenses for Angel Bulliner and Terese Love, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote.

**Mayor's Forum:** Mr. Vacho attended the Marshfield ground-breaking ceremony. Nothing further to add.

**Closed Session:** Motion by Mr. Reynolds to go into closed session under authority granted in S. 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats. to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting of other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to wit; to consider sale of City owned property, Seconded by A. Hraban.

Roll Call Vote: B. Morgan-no, J. Pohlman-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes. Motion carries 6-1.

Motion to Adjourn by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion carries by unanimous voice vote.

Adjourn at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Devine, Deputy Clerk