

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH  
August 12, 2019 6:30 p.m. Council Chamber

**Roll Call.**

Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, B. Groothousen, A. Hraban, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: S. Berg, R. Carlson, N. and A. Christianson 1, K. Gorsegner, K. and R. Grotzinger, P. Haag, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, D. and R. Lovely, S. Moore, D. Parker, C. Schultz.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Reynolds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve minutes of the July 22, and August 5, 2019, Council meetings.

**Agenda:**

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

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Mr. Carlson stated that, after someone was found to be sleeping in a rail car stored near the E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. rail crossing, and set fire to it, he checked the locks on rail cars displayed by the visitor center and found evidence that all had been tampered with, although no entry was gained. Mr. Carlson requested that the snow dump be an item for discussion at the next Public Works meeting.

A group of eight downtown business people or their supporters appeared in support of recent Council action to continue the Main Street program, citing what they feel that program has done to benefit them. Kelly Grotzinger, Steve Berg, Pat Haag and Sue Moore were among those who spoke. They will try to increase their involvement going forward. The Mayor thanked these folks for offering their insights. Among comments or observations made during this discussion were the following:

- As downtown property owners we don't consider downtown's condition hopeless.
- We want people in office who will fight for us; for the downtown.
- There was a lot of negativity in last week's Ladysmith News article about the Main Street Program.
- Some who are critical of Main Street haven't been at events there to see their positive impacts.
- If you aren't working to make changes, don't stand in the way of those who do.
- Many people like the downtown flower planters, banners, etc.

- I am totally invested in downtown.
- Nobody here wants to give up on downtown. Those comments were misconstrued. It was constructive criticism.
- The public didn't take the news article comments as constructive criticism.
- I took the harpoons.
- The creation of Grant Town after the tornado hurt downtown considerably.
- It hasn't been three years since a Main Street committee met. The most recent meeting was in May, and there was also one in January.
- Main Street will hold some new brainstorming sessions this fall.
- I received a facade grant to assist with a roof project and very much appreciate that.
- Music on Miner has been great.
- Halloween Night Out brought 200 people in my door so they now know where to find the services my business provides.
- I appreciate your decision to renew the Main Street program.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made seconded and carried by voice vote to approve a tavern operator's license for Trista DeWitt as an "independent", contingent upon LPD approval.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

None.

**District and Committee Reports:**

**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Platteter back. The latter then advised that the Library Board will meet August 13th at 5 p.m. It was also decided that the Finance Committee will meet before the August 19, All Committee meeting to start work on 2020 budget.

**District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:**

Mr. Morgan expressed a desire to get off the Rusk County Highway Safety Committee. Mr. Hraban volunteered to replace him and Mrs. Stoneberg volunteered to serve as a substitute.

Mr. Morgan asked where the Ventrac machine has been as he hasn't seen it. DPW Gorsegner advised that it is used all the time, adding that the "crew" loves it. He went on to say that the 2020 Public Works budget proposal will include a request for monies to purchase a snow blower attachment for the Ventrac.

Mr. Morgan inquired as to the status of the radiator repair at the Brooklyn Lift Station. It was clarified that the radiator that was repaired is at the Main Lift Station on the south end of E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. S.

He also inquired as to the status of alley repaving to be done in conjunction with the Worden Ave. rebuild. It was noted that markings for this repaving had gone down today. He also reported that fencing has been installed at the new dog park.

**District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:**

Mr. Groothousen advised that the Park Board will meet August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**District Four, Mr. J. Fields:**

Mr. Fields advised that he has reached out to Miner Theatre owner Brian Herrick. Adm. Christianson stated that he, too, has been in contact.

Mr. Fields advised that he and others have nearly lost costly electronic equipment during musical performances at the Vet's Pavilion in Memorial Park, and suspect that the third leg on the 220V electrical may be connected improperly. The PWD will have this checked out.

Mr. Morgan again noted that the proposed Gateway Pavilion center aisle seems too narrow once the back of a vehicle is under the awning and a table is set up. A set of tentative plans will be procured for review.

**District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:**

Mrs. Stoneberg reported that the Housing RLF Board met recently.

**District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban advised that the Rusk Co. Emergency Government Committee, which he is a member of, will meet the morning of August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:**

Mr. Reynolds advised that the Youth and Rec Committee will meet Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:**

Chief Julien provided a summary of calls LPD has received year to date, by category. He also provided comparative LPD staffing for recent years, adding that his officers also feel current understaffing may not be safe. He will ask for more help in his 2020 budget request. He also noted that the increase in activity has been curiously coupled with declining population, making it even more difficult. Mr. Reynolds stated that the community lost a lot of productive workers during the great recession, but that many unproductive folks stayed, which may account for the seeming discrepancy.

The Chief also indicated he will be contacting its owner about moving the rail car stored near E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. crossing. Atty. Kenyon may co-sign a letter.

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

The DPW requested approval of Energenics' invoice, in the amount of \$59,108, for the nearly complete work on the Doughty Rd. lift station rebuild. Motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Reynolds to approve. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Groothousen to accept the lower of two Proposals, from Zeigler Electric in the amount of \$6,500, to provide power to three surface aerators to be donated for use on Corbett Lake by Tom Hutnik et al. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Groothousen, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to renew the City's public works mutual aid agreement with the Village of Glen Flora. The City has similar agreements with other nearby villages. Services provided to date have been minimal and have not been invoiced.

The DPW indicated his 2020 budget request will have the same overall bottom line, but will include shifts among categories that comprise it.

**Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:**

Adm. Christianson requested approval of a final invoice of \$1,316.30, from Barrientos Associates, for conceptual design for converting the former armory into the City's primary PW garage. Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by Platteter to approve. Roll call vote: Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson called attention to a Proposal from Barrientos Associates to proceed with developing construction plans for the above described conversion, at a cost of about 6.5% of the estimated project cost. He noted that design costs are usually more in the 12-15% range. Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Stoneberg to approve entering into this plan preparation contract. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson also reported that, while he afforded Mr. Tomasovich a break at the plow museum during last weekend's Fair, he had occasion to notice that visitors had signed in from Arizona, Alabama, Colorado and Switzerland among other faraway places. Mr. Carlson then inquired as to the whereabouts of the rail display visitor's log, which also indicates many visitors come from places afar. Adm. Christianson replied that it could well be lost on the latter's desk.

**Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:**

Referencing his investigations of potential actions to condemn dilapidated properties, Atty. Kenyon reported the following:

- That the owner of a dwelling along E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. S. has covered a broken window and the lawn is mowed. That owner has also pledged to "try harder".
- That there has been no response from the owner of a property along E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. N. whose dwelling is beyond repair.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:**

Mayor Christianson mentioned the following:

- That the last Music on Miner of the season will be Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. That there will

also be music downtown Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, during the Leaf it to Rusk Festival.  
-That he had a chance to meet flag jumper Sgt. Bowman during the Rusk County Fair. He gave the Sgt. a City flag and showed him around. Sgt. Bowman was quite impressed with the Vet's murals here.

**Closed Session:**

Motion was made by Fields and seconded by Stoneberg to go into Closed Session under authority cited in the Meeting Notice. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Stoneberg, which was seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.