

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
August 13, 2018 5:15 p.m. Council Chamber

Roll Call. Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, N. Day, K. Gorseger, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, C. and J. Pohlman III, J. Pohlman II, M. Rudack, B. and J. Williams.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Platteter 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 23, 2018 Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

Rodeo

Bob and Johanne Williams appeared to comment on the success of the past weekend's rodeo and what they hope to do different next year. Among comments or observations they or others present made were the following:

- The Williams' thanked the City for being open-minded about its support for the rodeo.
- A list of States and localities from which people came to see or participate in the rodeo was reviewed.
- The Vet who jumped from a helicopter into the rodeo ring carrying a flag banner was very popular with folks even though that was a late addition to the program.
- This event was put together in 12 months, whereas it really requires 14. Planning for next year's rodeo has already been underway for 2 months.
- There were several effusive comments about how well thought out and run the rodeo seemed to be.
- The benefit dinner didn't work out and will not be part of next year's event.
- Although the rodeo provided a real boost to the fair, the plan for next year is to move the rodeo to the weekend after the County fair as co-existing this year created congestion and the rodeo can only grow if it can use more of the fairgrounds.

Public Hearing

At 6 p.m. a Public Hearing was convened on a proposed City application for CDBG assistance. Nate Day from SEH appeared to lead the Hearing the purpose of which was to take public input in regard to the City's intent to apply for CDBG planning funds to

facilitate investigating the feasibility of converting either the former armory or the former elementary school into a community center. The estimated cost of this effort is \$50,000.

Mr. Day covered the following in his comments:

1. Identification of total potential funds.
 - Several million dollars are expected to be available in Wisconsin in 2018 to benefit low and moderate income (LMI) people.
2. Eligible CDBG activities.
 - Eligible activities fall under the general categories of housing, economic development, planning, and public facilities. The latter range from infrastructure such as water and sewer main replacement, to fire stations, to special needs facilities.
3. Presentation of activities proposed for CDBG application, which essentially involves investigating the feasibility of converting either the former armory or the former elementary school into a community center, development of which is a CDBG eligible activity.

During the Public Hearing, Adm. Christianson provided a listing of the following community development needs or concerns regarding the City that were identified at a similar Public Hearing held earlier this year.

- Handicap accessible sidewalks are needed, especially near the middle school.
- The opportunity of obtaining other grants should be explored as should the possibility of dividing the project into two smaller ones so that grant assistance can be applied for twice. Since 2012, the City has completed nearly 20 projects with local funds. With area per capita and household incomes being among the lowest in the State, it is hard to raise the needed money locally. It was noted grant assistance will be a "godsend".
- Housing is needed in various segments and workforce needs to be maintained. These are interrelated because workers in the community need a place to stay. It was suggested the City work with ICAA, WHEDA, and Block Grant to meet these housing needs. There are 1,558 housing units, down from 1,660 at the time of the previous census. 55% of housing is owner-occupied, with 38% renter occupied.
- Retention of Workforce. Create additional amenities and recreational opportunities to both attract people to the area and retain them.
- Child care facilities. There are only 90 licensed day care slots in the entire County. Most day care facilities and providers have waiting lists. More capacity is needed to accommodate workers.
- Maintain decent and affordable housing opportunities for the senior population as they are vital citizens of the City.
- The City's circa 1946 public works maintenance shop is undersized and outmoded.

Discussion followed during which a question was asked whether a portion of the former elementary school might be converted to worker housing. It was recalled that the Council was previously presented with an opportunity to pursue such housing when the WI Main Street Program covered a consultant's time to make application on the City's behalf, but the City chose not to pursue it.

Melissa Rudack reported that part of the former Spooner Hospital had been converted into a day care facility, adding that such public buildings usually meet day care code requirements without much additional work. Is this what she said???

There was discussion of the fact that low or moderate income (LMI) residents make up slightly more than one half of the City's population and that a starting teacher's pay is LMI. Atty. Kenyon provided actual LMI cutoff numbers for a family of four in Rusk County, noting how high these numbers really are.

Mr. Hraban recalled that he had advised the School Board a few years back of the eventual need to sell the school they close. He also commented on assets the former armory property has to offer.

At 6:37 p.m. motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to close the Hearing.

Signs

Mr. Pohlman II asked when the one-way street signs will go up adjacent to the new Elementary School. DPW Gorsegrner replied that the base posts are in and the new signs will go up as soon as they are delivered. They have been on order for quite some time.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter advised that the Library Board will meet at 5 p.m. on August 15th. He also advised that the Finance Committee will meet on both August 20 and 22 [to hear budget requests from department heads].

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan reported that sashes are rotting on the boxcar at the rail display. Mr. Carlson is optimistic that he can take care of these. Mr. Morgan advised that Ken Phillips will be ???

Mr. Morgan advised that the Personnel Committee will meet next week. A date will be set after Mr. Fields learns (Aug. 15) of his daily schedule at Bruce High. He anticipates his workday will end at 3:45 daily.

Mr. Morgan indicated that he was unable to attend the most recent Rusk County Highway Safety Committee meeting.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the Aug. 6, All Committees meeting.

Mr. Hraban also reported that the Rusk Co. Property Committee is okay with the City having a record fish mural painted on the west side of the Flambeau River Outfitters building if the City wants to.

Mr. M. Hraban made a motion and A. Hraban seconded to approve purchase of two concrete picnic tables for \$2,172, for use at the Flambeau River Overlook. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

District Four, Mr. R. Fields:

Mr. Fields reminded members of a Community Development meeting planned for 5:30 p.m. the following evening.

Mr. Fields commented on the need for the City and other entities to use advertise facilities and events and not just suppose that people know. Mrs. Rudack stated that Mayor Christianson is the only person getting the word out at present through his own social media connections.

Mr. Fields reported that Leroy Opsal had asked him to look into filling potholes in the alley behind Lake Manor. That will be taken care of.

Attention was called to planning for a farmer's market sponsored meal, which will use locally sourced foods.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg advised that the Legal Affairs Committee met at 3 p.m. It was decided that Committee will meet next at 3 p.m. on Monday, August 27th to continue work on some items.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. M. Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by Fields to include \$16-20,000 for purchase of ARCGIS program in first draft of 2019 budget. The other two thirds of the estimated \$50-60,000 cost would be paid for from water and sewer utilities. Mr. Morgan asked what the City will gain. It was noted, in reply, that this is the future of record keeping; that many smaller communities already have such systems. Many types of records could be accessed almost instantly through use of parcel numbers, including by City crews and contractors. Currently these records often have to be found in poorly labeled cardboard boxes in the basement, which takes way too much time. Motion was made by M. Hraban seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve.

Mr. A. Hraban made a motion and Fields seconded to approve expenditure of \$23,110 from the water utility to purchase and install a new high service pump for the WTP and to rehab the current pump for future use. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. A. Hraban made a motion and M. Hraban seconded to purchase a pickup plow from Car Craft Auto Body for \$6,737.28, as a cost to the water and sewer utilities. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. A. Hraban made a motion and M. Hraban seconded to purchase a Ventrac Model 4500 facility maintenance machine for \$36,351.92 for primary use in downtown sidewalk snow removal as a cost to the 2018 PW equipment budget line. Mr. Morgan reiterated his previous comment that this is a piece of lawn and garden equipment and that the City would better serve the public with purchase of industrial quality equipment such as a JD tractor. DPW Gorsegner countered that a machine smaller than a tractor is needed to work around light posts and other obstacles on downtown sidewalks. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-no; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. A. Hraban made a motion and M. Hraban seconded to approve including purchase of a JD Model 3039R tractor, along with three attachments, in the first draft of the 2019 budget, as part of PW equipment budget line. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Mr. M. Hraban made a motion and A. Hraban seconded to approve the low bid of \$6,245 from Bloomer Sealers to crack fill various City streets. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-absent. Motion carried.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson reviewed matters considered at the recent Park Board meeting, indicating that the focus was on the subject of relocation of the skateboard facility. Mr. Carlson asked again why a 2014 (?) decision to relocate it to Falge Park wasn't followed up on. It was noted in reply that facility users want it in a more visible location than Falge Park.

J. Pohlman III stated that he used the skate board facility many years ago, adding that sport became popular in the 1960s. He went on to say that while there may have only been 15 users then, and while there may only be 15 users now, it has demonstrated staying power so is not a fad as someone suggested.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien reminded those present to "vote tomorrow".

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

The DPW called attention to a Change Order quote of (-)\$5,500 offered by the contractor to provide a wooden rather than metal railing atop the Pederson Ave. retaining wall adjacent to W. 5th St. N. He explained how a previous C.O. provided for a metal railing, but that a wooden split rail was offered as a cost saving measure in view of the need to make the railing longer than originally thought. A question was raised about the longevity of wood. Mrs. Stoneberg stated that a wood fence she had installed is still in use after 30 years, adding that regular maintenance is no doubt part of the reason why. Motion was

made by Stoneberg and seconded by Pearson to approve of the wooden split rail C.O. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

The DPW requested approval of a payment of \$7,500 to MSA for CDBG project (Center/E. 8th/Pederson) administration. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Morgan requested that a PW meeting be held to review that department's 2019 budget proposal. It was noted that is already slated to happen at a Finance meeting and anyone interested is welcome to sit in.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson recalled mention of expending \$1,000 from the Council grants and aids budget line to sponsor Gravel Grinder bike race activities near the finish line to include live music in the Memorial Park amphitheater. This support from the Council would go through the Ladysmith Jaycees. Motion was made Fields and seconded by Stoneberg to approve. Roll call vote: Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve expenditure of \$4,000 from TIFD #10 to have SEH develop cost estimates for proposed components of Riverview Trail upgrades. It was clarified that one of those components is hoped to be toilets shared with the industrial area ball fields. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Fields to approve expenditure of \$3,800 from TIFD #9 to have SEH prepare a letter summary detailing steps that would be necessary and obstacles that might be encountered in seeking permits to dredge Corbett Lake and in using those dredge spoils to create a wetland bank sale of credits from which would, presumably, finance the dredging. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-no. Motion carried.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon had nothing more to report.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. A. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson reported that he and Lions Club rep Dick Moore had met at the fairgrounds over the weekend and shook hands after discussing the Lions and Jaycees differences of opinion on a couple subjects. The two organizations will attempt to work together to promote the upcoming Gravel Grinder Bike Race.

The Mayor passed around copies of a picture of a skateboarder that appears on the home page of the City of Barron's website. He noted that the photo is of Matt Zona who is both a former Ladysmith City employee and former leader of the local Skate Park Coalition.

Licenses and Permits:

None.

Closed Session:

None.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded M. Hraban and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

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