

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH

Monday, August 14th, 2023

5:15PM

Ladysmith Council Chambers

Members Present: Mayor Grotzinger, Nathan Johnson, Gordon Pedersen, Al Christianson, Dr. Steve Weiss, Allen Hraban, John Hoover, Richard Ostenso.

Others Present: Terry Carter, John Pohlman III, John Pohlman II, Ray Carlson, Luke Klink, Shawn O'Brian, Terry Wedwick, Sheriff Wallace, Kianna Lindh, Kurt Berner.

Call to order. Mayor Grotzinger called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Pedersen.

Minutes and Agenda. Motion by A. Hraban to approve July 24th, 2023 minutes and this evening's agenda, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Introduction of Guests, Public Hearings, Comments.

5:15 pm: Public Hearing to hear and consider public input relative to proposed Certified Survey Map of the former Ladysmith Elementary School grounds located along E 6th St S. Admn Christianson reported this is one of the final steps to finalize the redevelopment of the old elementary school for workforce housing and revamping the rest of the grounds for various outdoor recreation purposes. There were no additional questions or comments from the public and the public hearing was closed at 5:20pm.

Appearance by Venture Architects/Samuels Group to discuss Rusk County Jail Project. Kurt Berner appeared from the Samuels Group to begin the discussion on Rusk County building a new jail adjacent to the current building. Mr. Berner reported they are in the design phase currently to evaluate each possible location the jail could potentially be added onto the current court house. One possible location is adding onto the south side of the building, which would require the vacation of a City street. Mr. Berner inquired about this process and how they would reach this point. Mr. Berner reported that of the options for placement that they have, Miner Avenue would be the best option.

K. Gorseigner reported that to vacate a city street, the affected public would have to be notified and a public hearing would have to be held.

John Pohlman III stated that he does not support the idea of closing main street to build a jail.

Admn Christianson inquired about the additional increase in response time for emergency services due to the potential block closure. Mr. Berner reported that those figures have not been calculated yet.

Atty Kenyon requested that Mr. Berner provide the City with additional information for the project.

A. Christianson asked that Atty. Kenyon review the statutes regarding the procedures to inform the public and how it can affect the ultimate decision if they object.

Appearance by Kianna Lindh, MSA, to present scoring details for the Miner Avenue CDBG project and possible adoption of the Scoring Summary. Kianna Lindh presented the scoring details for the Miner Avenue CDBG project.

Review and possible approval of the MSA Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$25,000 for Administration of the 2023 CDBG Miner Ave project. Kianna Lindh from MSA presented the MSA Professional Services Agreement for the Miner Avenue street project. Motion by A. Christianson to approve the MSA Professional Services Agreement in the amount of \$25,000 for Administration of the 2023 CDBG Miner Ave project, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passes by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes.

Review and possible action to adopt Resolution 2023-20 to Vacate a Portion of Platted but Undeveloped Alley. Motion by A. Christianson to adopt Resolution 2023-20 to vacate a portion of platted but undeveloped alley, seconded by J. Hoover. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A.Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes.

Review and possible action to adopt Resolution 2023-21 to Vacate portions of Platted but Undeveloped Roadway and Alley. Motion by A. Christianson to adopt Resolution 2023-21 to vacate portions of platted but undeveloped roadway and alley, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen-yes.

Review and possible action to adopt Resolution 2023-22 Certified Survey Map for the City of Ladysmith. Attached. Motion by A. Hraban to adopt Resolution 2023-22 certified survey map for the City of Ladysmith, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes.

Review and possible action to adopt Resolution 2023-23 to Vacate a Portion of Platted but Undeveloped Alley. Motion by S. Weiss to adopt Resolution 2023-23 to vacate a portion of platted but undeveloped alley, seconded by J. Hoover. Motion

passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes. G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes.

Review and possible action on Ordinance 2023-07 Amending Side and Rear Yard Fence Regulations. No action taken.

District One, Ostenso. Nothing to report.

District Two, Johnson.

Per recommendation from Park Board, approve turning over Corbett Lake Folders 11-29 to City Hall Staff for archiving. Motion by A. Christianson to approve turning over Corbett Lake Folders 11-29 to City Hall Staff for archiving, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Authorize Finance Committee to approve awarding of bids for Wisconsin Surplus Auction items at its 8/21/23 meeting. Motion by N. Johnson to authorize the Finance Committee to approve awarding of bids for Wisconsin Surplus Auction items at its 8.21.23 meeting, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes.

District Three, Pedersen. Nothing to report. Ray Carlson wanted to extend a thank you to the cemetery staff and cemetery board members for making his family's lots look nice.

District Four, Christianson. Mr. Christianson asked if anyone had questions regarding the minutes from both the recent Ladysmith IDC meeting and the Joint Community Development and Property Committee meeting. Nothing else to report.

District Five, Weiss. Dr. Weiss reported that he wanted to receive a lot more information on the reason and needs for expanding the jail. Dr. Weiss stated that he wanted the other council members to rank their choices on the different photos for possible billboards. Dr. Weiss would like to see these billboards up by the end of the calendar year. John Pohlman II suggested it would be a good idea to trademark the motto. A. Christianson advised it would make the process easier to have the billboards located in the same spots they are currently; utilizing both sides of the billboards would also make them visually appealing. Admn.Christianson stated that he would email the photos out and also provide paper copies.

District Six, Hraban. Nothing to report.

District Seven, Hoover. Mr. Hoover reported that people had voiced their concerns over the trees being removed on Miner Avenue for the upcoming project and possibly not being replaced. Admn. Christianson said that there will be a meeting scheduled regarding the project with invites going out to the council and Miner Avenue property and business owners to discuss concerns.

Police and Fire Report. Absent.

Public Works Report.

Review and possibly approve American Engineering Testing's proposal in the amount of \$29,575 to perform soil borings and prepare a geotechnical report as required by CN in order to install water main utility below the CN railroad line on Miner Avenue. Motion by A. Christianson to approve American Engineering Testing's proposal in the amount of \$29,575 to perform soil borings and prepare a geotechnical report as required by CN in order to install water main utility below the CN railroad line on Miner Avenue, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen-yes. A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes.

Administrator's Report.

Action to approve \$5,000 from TIF #8 for marketing of downtown and surrounding area within halo zone in 2023. Admn Christianson reported that this will be used to further promote the area, including upcoming events like Leaf It To Rusk; updating the billboards and designing the website to include more things to do; all to boost the presence of the area. Motion by N. Johnson to approve \$5,000 from TIF #8 for marketing of downtown and surrounding area within halo zone in 2023, seconded by S. Weiss. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. N. Johnson-yes. G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes.

Attorney's Report. Atty Kenyon made the suggestion of possibly advertising in magazines geared towards specific enthusiasts like John Deere, he stated the cost is relatively low per month.

Licenses and Permits.

Motion by N. Johnson to approve operator licenses for James West, III and Barbara West, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban to approve operator license for Raemalee Smith and Sonia M. Austin pending PD approval, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson to approve operator license for Brandon Whitaker pending PD approval, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by R. Ostenso to approve operator license for Ann Marie Slowiak, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes.0-no.

Motion by A. Hraban to approve operator license for Roxann Wilde, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by N. Johnson to approve a street use permit for Rusk County Community Library on September 9th, 2023. seconded by R. Ostenso. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Motion by S. Weiss to approve Chicken Keeping permit pending inspection for Nathan Johnson, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by voice vote. 6-yes. 0-no. Let the record show N. Johnson abstained.

Mayor's forum. Mayor Grotzinger wanted to note the passing of John Terrill whom was a historian of our area and a writer for the Ladysmith News. Mayor Grotzinger stated that as a younger man he read his article in the paper titled "Tails, Trails & Tales". Mayor Grotzinger requested a moment of silence for Mr. Terrill.

Possible action to spend \$400 from Council Grants & Aids for Leaf it to Rusk Beer, Wine & Cheese tasting. Motion by A. Hraban to approve \$400 from Council Grants & Aids for Leaf it to Rusk Beer, Wine & Cheese tasting, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes.

Mayor Grotzinger also noted that he attended the Rusk County Fair this past weekend, it was his first time going to the rodeo here and enjoyed the event. Mayor Grotzinger also was present at the mud bogs on Sunday. He commented on how much there is to see and do in the area and even as an adult he is experiencing things for the first time, noting that he attended the events held during Leaf it to Rusk at Christie Mountain, riding the chairlift to the top and that was the first time he experienced it.

Motion by A. Hraban to enter into closed session under authority granted in Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; to wit, to discuss developer agreement for old elementary school property with possible

action, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed with roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. A. Christianson-yes, S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen.

Motion by A. Christianson to come out of closed session, seconded by A. Hraban. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Possible action on topic held during closed session or announcement of action taken during closed session. Mayor Grotzinger announced that no action was taken.

Motion by A. Hraban to enter into closed session under authority granted in Wis Stat. 19.85(1)(e) Wis. Stats. to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public property, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a Closed Session; to wit; to discuss developer agreement for Industrial property with possible action, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by roll call vote. 7-yes. 0-no. S. Weiss-yes, A. Hraban-yes, J. Hoover-yes, R. Ostenso-yes, N. Johnson-yes, G. Pedersen-yes, A. Christianson-yes.

Motion by A. Hraban to come out of closed session, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no.

Possible action on topic held during closed session or announcement of action taken during closed session. Mayor Grotzinger announced that no action was taken.

Adjourn. Motion by A. Hraban to adjourn meeting, seconded by N. Johnson. Motion passed by voice vote. 7-yes. 0-no. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara Nelson
Deputy Clerk