

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve tavern operator's licenses for the following, contingent upon LPD approval:

- Trenton J. Camren for Holiday.
- Cory F. Woodmansee for Krist Oil.
- Amanda Novak for Ladysmith Fresh Market.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter called attention to minutes of the Aug. 19, Finance Committee meeting which focused on the 2020 budget and added that another meeting was held just prior to this one. He mentioned that Chief Julien presented the proposed LPD budget at that meeting, the major component of which is seeking to upgrade a vacant p.t. position to f.t.

Mr. Platteter advised that the Finance Committee will plan to meet next at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd.

Mr. Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the monthly invoices.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Morgan was absent.

District Three, Mr. B. Groothousen:

Mr. Groothousen inquired as to the status of the trailer the West family wants to set in the Westcove Campground. Atty. Kenyon replied that he is having difficulty reconciling between Rusk County's campground rules and the City's zoning rules.

Mr. Groothousen distributed minutes of the recent Park Board meeting. He then made a motion, which was seconded by Stoneberg to hire tennis court consultant Fred Kolkmann to create plans and specs Memorial Park tennis court upgrades. His services will be a \$3,000 cost to TIFD #8. Roll call vote: Platteter-no; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-no; Reynolds-yes. Motion carried. If the City wants him to oversee construction that will be an additional \$3,000, not part of this action.

Reynolds then made a motion and Hraban seconded to approve Dennis Wiemer's Proposal to make two directional signs and one larger entrance sign for Pioneer Park at a cost of \$1,055 to TIFD #9. Roll call vote: Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields had nothing to report.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg distributed copies of the August 12, Legal Affairs Committee meeting. Mr. Groothousen asked why reduce the fine for marijuana possession so much when it is considered a "gateway drug". Responses included the following:

-With the Governor and Attorney General advocating it, the State of Wisconsin is likely to soon legalize it.

-Surrounding States and many larger cities including Eau Claire have legalized it.

-The reduction is intended to be for adults only; not children or young adults.

It was requested that this matter be put on the next agenda.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the August 19, All Committees meeting. Mr. Hraban made a motion and Groothousen seconded to accept Monarch's low bid of \$94,274.50 to upgrade and repave E. 16th St. N. from Edgewood Ave. south to Menasha Ave. as a cost to TIFD #11. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes. Motion carried.

Hraban made a motion, which was seconded by Groothousen and carried by voice vote to allow an abutting owner to pay the cost of paving a City alley; and, to allow an abutting owner to pave a small area behind City Hall so that it blends better with that owner's planned new pavement.

District Seven, Mr. M. Reynolds:

Mr. Reynolds made a motion and Fields seconded to approve expenditure of \$13,975 in 2019 budgeted monies to make backstop improvements at the industrial area ballfields and to add new "field mix" infield topping. Little League reps will plan to remove the current backstop on a voluntary basis, after which Hayworth Fence will install the new one. This work needs to be scheduled soon as delivery is six weeks out. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

Chief Julien reviewed an incident over the past weekend that involved meth being thrown from a moving vehicle running from police. He was somewhat taken back by Facebook comments condemning how LPD dealt with this. He clarified that the message to the public did not tell the public to clean it up but, rather to be vigilant in areas where the incident occurred in case items were missed when law enforcement swept the area.

Chief Julien also asked if anyone present had received notice of rail incident training planned for Thursday, Sept. 26, which notice was recently sent out by Rusk Co. Emergency Government coordinator Tom Hall. Council members, too, should be expecting invitations. The training is to be held from 5-8 p.m. that evening at the fire hall.

The decision to hold this particular training was prompted by a handful of incidents in recent years, which did involve trains. Pizza will be furnished.

LFD Chief Gibbs reported that LFD's raffle went well and that proceeds will go toward ongoing facility maintenance. He also stated that, with the facility being over 20 years old and these costs rising, LFD has opened a dialogue with Rusk County about the latter paying rent for the ambulance garage portion. He went on to say that LFD's 2020 budget request is similar to this year's.

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

DPW Gorsegner reviewed Morgan & Parnley's written update on the status of the Fritz, Worden and Summit Ave. reconstructions.

Motion was made by Groothousen and seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote to approve the All Committees' recommendation to allow the DPW to approve progress payments on projects that are under contract, when the project engineer has already indicated in writing satisfaction with the Pay Request.

DPW Gorsegner reported that it seems to be and the crew that this is the busiest summer they remember. That new fiberoptic lines are being installed by three contractors lends to that as do the street reconstructions and the new JREC facility. He noted that both LPD and the library keep stats which make comparative activity easier to compare. He went on to say that viewing it that way he looked at Digger's Hotline tickets and found that a "year's worth" were already used up in June.

The Mayor noted interest was expressed to him in placing a "tiny home" in the City. Mr. Gorsegner stated that current ordinances don't allow for anything less than 720 sq. ft., adding that using a conditional use permit process might be a reasonable approach to consider a formal request. To do even this the Zoning Code would need to be modified to specifically enumerate "tiny houses" as eligible to be approved by conditional permit.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Adm. Christianson requested approval of an SEH Proposal, in the amount of up to \$24,400, to prepare tentative plans to dissolve TIFD #5; to revise the boundaries of TIFD #9; and, to create new TIFD #12, possibly as an "overlay district". Mr. Reynolds asked what would be gained from such actions. Adm. Christianson then noted the following:

- Dissolution of TIFD #5 would help create "cap space" under which a new TIFD could be created. The total value of the City's current TIFDs exceeds a 12% State imposed cap. The City cannot create new districts until its combined value in existing districts is below that cap. Alternately, TIFD #5 might pay itself off by the time a new district needs to be created.

- Revising the boundaries of TIFD #9 could also serve to help get City below 12% cap and "clean the slate" so to speak to create a new district. The area suggested to possibly be removed is that lying between the river and Port Arthur Rd.

- A new District #12 could potentially capture value from a new clinic or from private

reuse of the current hospital or clinic. Taxation on which “incremental” value could help finance actions that cause the new value and other (jobs, etc.) benefits of new or remodeled facilities that boost the City’s economy.

-Creating a new district on what are largely tax-exempt properties between the river and Port Arthur Rd. could help finance adaptive demolition or reuse of selected facilities, improve access to them, or pay for parking, lighting or other infrastructure to serve them.

Mr. Groothousen spoke in favor of these actions. Motion was then made by Groothousen and seconded by Reynolds to approve use of up to \$24,400 from TIFD #9 for this purpose. Roll call vote: Hraban-yes; Reynolds-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-absent; Groothousen-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson distributed or called attention to handouts on the following subjects:

-The City’s current Bid Solicitation Procedures and State’s current bidding requirements, which are more flexible than the City’s.

-A packet of photos illustrating deterioration of exterior improvements and components of the lower level of the library, now about 22 years old.

-The master copy of the Community Center Feasibility Study, the summary section of which was recently emailed to members that have email. Both Mr. Reynolds and Atty. Kenyon requested full copies including attachments.

Attorney’s Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon reported on a humorous incident of what appeared to be someone herding goats with a golf cart near his residence.

Mayor’s Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson requested approval of his appointment of Mr. Hraban as Council rep on the Rusk Co. Highway Safety Committee, and of Mrs. Stoneberg as Mr. Hraban’s sub. Motion was made by Fields, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve these appointments.

The Mayor also commented on the following:

-Stated that the movie Powerhouse showed at the amphitheater over the past weekend was well attended, adding that Mr. Fields provided the sound.

-Reported that, while he was at Family Restaurant Saturday, he was questioned by a resident of the Holcombe area about how they might go about having Music on Miner type events there.

-Again noted that former Mayor Moore was always very pro Ladysmith.

-Mentioned that Jim Turner, too, had passed and offered condolences to his family. That Jim had spent a lot of time promoting the Miner Theatre even when health issues were a burden. That Jim also once served this community as an EMT. He closed by saying we thank him for leaving his mark here.

-Encouraged those present to lead by example by talking positive about our community. Talk up good things about the community not what we don’t have, as it is easy to slip into negativity.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Hraban, which was seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Recorded by: _____

Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____

Date published: _____