

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH
August 27, 2018 6:30 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, K. Gibbs, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, D. Parker, J. Pohlman.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2018 Council meeting.

Agenda:

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

Hearings and Appearances:

There were no hearings or appearances.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

None.

District and Committee Reports:

District One, Mr. Platteter:

Mr. Platteter called attention to minutes of the August 20 and 22, Finance meetings, which involved review of departmental budget requests for 2019. He went on to advise that another budget meeting will be held August 29th. He stated that the current proposals appear to exceed available revenues by \$946,000, which will necessitate a lot of cutting.

District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:

Mr. Carlson advised that he will be unable to open and close the rail display this coming weekend owing to a family union. The Mayor offered to cover this for him and will get in touch for details.

Mr. Morgan expressed disappointment that an effort to raise the track under the FP7 locomotive hasn't progressed even though it was supposed to have been done weeks ago. He went on to say that the access ramp may have to be reconnected.

Mr. Morgan advised that he talked with the City of Barron about how it handles parks and recreation, but would like to learn the same from other nearby locales like Cornell, Hayward, Park Falls and Phillips. Mr. Morgan advised He plans to call a Personnel meeting next week to consider this subject. It was suggested that the Clerk could ask this question of other clerks in a consortium she belongs to.

Mr. Morgan advised that the local animal shelter has a very large number of cats. He also mentioned that his granddaughter is a small animal vet in NY. He may ask her how they deal with such situations. There will be a spay/neuter clinic coming up.

District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the August 20, All Committees meeting.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Morgan to purchase 6 dog walk area signs at \$45 each as cost to animal shelter and to have Weimer Art Works revise two existing way-finding signs, also at a cost of \$45 each, to TIFD #8. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hraban made a motion and Fields seconded to have Glen Hetchler paint exposed concrete at 1506 Barnett Rd. for \$425 as a cost to Fund 290. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried. Fire Chief Gibbs reported that LFD will repaint bollards around the fire hall itself to save a few hundred dollars.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to recommend to JMC that bollards, doors and the dust collection system at the Enterprise Center be repainted as a cost against the revenue account for that facility, which is held by Rusk Co. It was noted that repainting the bollards and dust system has been quoted at \$1,400, but that a quote hasn't yet been received to repaint the doors. It was clarified that Rusk County receives rents and incurs expenditures to maintain that building.

Mr. Hraban reported that Andy Albarado has been named the new County Administrator. Mayor Christianson described that as a fine choice. It was noted, in reply to a question, that there had been 79 applicants.

District Four, Mr. J. Fields:

Mr. Fields reported that the farmer's market held its "picnic at the market" over the past weekend, adding that he was unable to attend. He went on to say that once he settles into his new teaching job at BHS he should be able to get back to his other obligations.

Mr. Fields made a motion, which was seconded by Pearson, to place \$10,000 in the 2019 budget draft for new event development, or expansion of current events. At his request, Mrs. Pearson explained initial ideas for a new event which might be called "Goose Your Neighbor", which would be a light-hearted fund raiser for purchase on additional holiday

lighting or similar goal. The motion was then carried by split voice vote. Mrs. Stoneberg noted that the goose decoys have already been procured.

Mr. Fields lauded Mrs. Pearson for her creative ideas and mentioned that a non-motorized fishing tournament is among other ideas the Community Development Committee is considering.

District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:

Mrs. Stoneberg called attention to minutes of the August 13, Legal Affairs meeting and to items considered at the meeting held just before this meeting.

Mrs. Stoneberg made a motion which was seconded by A. Hraban to add the following sections of street to the list of approved ATV/UTV routes.

-E. 3rd St. from River Ave. to Worden Ave., which includes the Brooklyn Bridge.

-River Ave. from E. 3rd to E. 5th St.

-E. 5th St. from River to Menahsa Ave.

Some thought what was to be approved differed somewhat, which was clarified. Mrs. Stoneberg stated that while she fears abuse of the privilege "its not about me". Mr. Pohlman too expressed some misgivings about permitting these vehicles on any highway. It was also mentioned that LPD doesn't really have time to enforce all provisions some might expect it to. The motion was then carried by voice vote.

It was also noted that the Committee recommended adjusting the speed limit on all streets to match the posted speeds so that slower moving ATV/UTV traffic doesn't present a hazard.

Mrs. Stoneberg reported the Housing RLF Committee recently approved a new loan.

District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:

Mr. A. Hraban made a motion and M. Hraban seconded to approve a Change Order with Haas Sons, in amount of (-)\$7,163.95, resulting in a new final cost of \$296,041.15, for the Phillips Ave. rebuild. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by M. Hraban to approve final contract payment of \$99,448.71 to Haas Sons for work completed on Phillips Ave. rebuild. Roll call vote: Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:

Mrs. Pearson advised that the Park Board will meet on Sept. 20, at 5:15 p.m.

Police and Fire Dept. Reports, K. Julien:

LPD Chief Julien reported that an open house for parents and teachers is being held at this time at the new Elementary School. Already two parking violations have been noted, with one car parked in a yellow zone, and another in front of a private driveway.

LPD Chief Gibbs distributed copies of a League of Municipalities opinion providing guidance on how the City may authorize the LFD to maintain department-controlled accounts that it has traditionally had. This will be run through the Legal Affairs Committee for review and recommendation.

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

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by M. Hraban to approve payment of \$5,785 to Morgan and Parmley for Summit Ave. design work and payment of \$6,935 to Morgan and Parmley for Fritz and Worden Ave. design work. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes. Motion carried.

Asst. DPW Parker provided the following updates:

- Rusk County has completed most of the asphalt patching.
- The City's contractor has been given the go ahead to proceed with crack filling.
- AECOM is continuing drilling to trace contamination that may have emanated from the former Clark Oil spill site.

Mr. Parker discussed how an asphalt heater might be upgraded to a "recycler" capable of adding oil to reclaimed asphalt.

Mr. Morgan asked who did the asphalt patch at 501 Fritz Ave. W. adding that the size of crew and equipment present seemed unwarranted. Rusk Co. Highway Dept. did the job. He also asked about a manhole on Hwy. 27 north of Miner, which seems to stick up such that it could be a plow catcher. Where is the little volcano? This is how it was installed as part of the State's project.

Mr. Morgan also asked the Mayor where he would build a new house, to which the latter replied along the river within the City.

Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:

Motion was made by A. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to approve lighting repairs at the fire hall by J L Electric at a cost of \$955 to LFD's budget. Roll call vote: A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-momentarily absent; Stoneberg-yes. Motion carried.

Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:

Atty. Kenyon mentioned that a public open house will be held at the new Elementary School on Wednesday, Sept. 12th.

Atty. Kenyon reported that the Housing RLF Committee met last week and approved down payment assistance for a home purchase adding that it appears this should be a good loan. He went on to say that after making that loan about \$85,000 remains available that could be lent providing work to local contractors and sales for local material suppliers, except that its availability doesn't seem to be advertised.

Atty. Kenyon also told of overhearing a clerk at Kwik Trip suggesting to a visitor, who asked, that locals go shopping in EC and RL on rainy days. M. Hraban added that he initially drew a blank when asked where a visitor can buy a shirt with the name Ladysmith on it, but then realized the visitor center, Artisans and Wal Mart are among outlets that have them.

Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:

Mayor Christianson got on his self-described "affordable housing soapbox" about community housing needs. He distributed two newsletters describing recent housing projects in WI, one of which is valued at \$900,000, and pays real estate taxes of \$21,460 annually. He went on to explain reasons why he believes the City needs to pursue new housing, including the following:

- To provide housing for workers within close driving to jobs.
- To increase the tax base.
- To improve overall appearances.

The Mayor also made a number of related comments including the following:

- TIF can be used to help such projects if need be.
 - Section 42 tax incentives are available.
 - This is an exciting time with a couple notable new buildings under construction and others being upgraded. Prevea helps to establish our area as a health care destination.
 - He recently sent off requests to WI Main Street program seeking four sketches for exterior upgrades to downtown buildings under new ownership or being looked at.
 - We need to keep our ears and minds open in considering housing projects.
 - Rents for such apartments are based on family size and prevailing local rates.
- Mrs. Pearson stated support for such project.

Mrs. Stoneberg asked where such a project might be located. A handful of downtown sites were mentioned.

Atty. Kenyon reviewed prevailing residential rent rates here and in larger area cities, which rates are higher than many had thought. Mr. Kenyon described a personal housing project he is working on that cost him \$50,000, but will be offset by increasing the rent rate from \$495 to \$975 monthly. He invited those present to view that project at 518 Fritz Ave. W. He stated that "in the real world" a 40 year old 3 bedroom with a garage probably rents for \$1,200/mo. And that an older 2 or 3 bedroom probably rents for \$800-\$1,000/mo.

Licenses and Permits:

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's license to Bruce Harrison for Krist Oil, as approved by LPD.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's license to Bridgette Barna for DJs Pizza & Pub, contingent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's license to Mark Clifford for Holiday Stationstore, contingent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to approve a change of agent for Dollar General Store #7401 to Brenda Rowe.

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Fields and carried by voice vote to approve a Street Use Permit for Leaf it to Rusk downtown events to be held Saturday, September 29, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., to include closure of Miner Ave. from E. 2nd St. to W. 3rd St. with the portion in front of Security Financial Bank and the Post Office to remain open until after those operations close for the day.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to deny a tavern operator's license to Sarah Casey for 211 Club, based upon LPD's recommendation to deny. Chief Julien stated that he would reconsider approval if he were to receive a properly completed application.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned 6:48 p.m.

Recorded by: _____
Alan Christianson
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

Publication:

Date submitted: _____
Date published: _____