

August 13th, 2020 LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:00 pm Council Chamber. Members Present: M. Reynolds, M. Platteter, G. Schueller

Others Present: K. Julien, T. Devine, J. Pohlman, A. Christianson II, Al Kenyon, L. Klink, S. Morrissey, B. Heavey, C. Hanson

Call to Order: Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5pm and presided.

Discussion and action recommendation regarding proposed new Ordinance 11-7-(1-3) “Residency Requirements for Sex Offenders in Ladysmith”

Chief Julien started the discussion relating that public safety is his primary responsibility, and there is a lack of control with respect to sex offenders residing in Ladysmith. The City of Ladysmith currently has no ordinance regarding sex offenders. Mr. Julien offered a comparison with the City of Rice Lake, where Rice Lake has a fairly strict ordinance, and 40 sex offender residents. The City of Ladysmith has 39, but 1/3 the population. He cited 4 examples of how ineffective his opposition to locating offenders in the City has been. Roughly 150 municipalities have ordinances in place similar to what he has drafted. The draft is based on ordinances already in place for Rice Lake and Minocqua.

Mr. Platteter noted that the question of constitutionality of the ordinance was somewhat contingent on the amount of the City that, effectively, would be closed off to offenders. Mr. Kenyon added that, according to previous court cases, the percentage of the City that would need to be available to offenders was between 25 and 50. Imposing a 1,000 ft. distance from schools, the library, parks and day cares would likely be too restrictive in Ladysmith. A 500 ft. distance would likely not be too restrictive.

Motion to present new Ordinance 11-7-(1-3), with a 500 ft. limit, to the Common Council by G. Schueller, Seconded by M. Platteter. Motion carried 3 – 0.

Discussion and action recommendation regarding the Proposal for Professional Services for Quiet Zone Assessment

Mr. Reynolds talked with SRF Consulting. They would be able to complete the assessment of the Quiet Zone study for roughly \$9,000. This amount has been ear-marked in Fund Balance for several years. With the increased train traffic, it’s a good time to move forward with this.

Motion to present the SRF assessment plan to the Common Council by G. Schueller, seconded by M. Platteter. Motion carried 3 – 0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15pm