

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDING OF
THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**

Monday, August 23, 2021 5:15 pm Ladysmith City Council Chambers

Members Present: M. Platteter, B. Morgan, J. Pohlman, III, G. Schueller (on-line), J. West, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds, Mayor K. Vacho

Others present: A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, S. Kavanagh, D. Parker, Luke Klink, Ray Carlson, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, K. Gibbs.

Call to order. Mayor K. Vacho called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

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

Pledge of Allegiance led by J. Pohlman, III.

Minutes and Agenda. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Pohlman, to approve the August 9, 2021 Council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passes 7-0.

District 1, Platteter. Nothing to report. B. Morgan requested that the bid for cleaning up the Doughty Road planter box be placed on the next council agenda for action. He also asked that the restored depot bench either be moved to the passenger car or be used in the council chambers.

District 2, Morgan. After the recent Public Works Committee meeting, Mr. Morgan asked that an item be added to the next council agenda so discussion can take place on what the committee saw on their recent tour of Doughty, Barnett and Gustafson Roads. Mr. Morgan heard from Ron Young that, once it cools down, he will take his brush cutter over to O. J. Falge Park and cut down the vegetation around the shoreline.

District 3, Pohlman. A meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee will be set up for Monday, August 30, 2021 at 5:15 pm. Atty Kenyon raised a question whether an ordinance should be added to regulate the use of golf carts on city streets; the topic will be added to the Legal Affairs agenda.

District 4, Schueller. Nothing to report.

District 5, West. The Personnel Committee met and conducted interviews for an available position with the Public Works department; the committee is still in the process of filling that vacancy. Mr. West confirmed with DPW Gorsegner that plans on 10th Street have been submitted to the DNR for any possible low interest loan financing. Cost estimates have also been prepared for the Summit Ave cul de sac, 10th Street, Flambeau Ave, Lindoo Ave, the two blocks between 4th -6th St and also 2nd St between Lake Ave and Miner Ave. During the budgetary process, those projects will be looked at and funding possibilities will be discussed.

District 6, Hraban. Mr. Hraban reported that the Finance Committee met last Tuesday and continues to work with department heads on their 2022 budget projections. Tomorrow, the

Finance Committee will be meeting again to review the 2022 Upper and Lower Level Library budgets as well as the Fire Department budget projections.

District 7, Reynolds. Nothing to report.

Police and Fire Report. Chief Julien reported that Officer Matthew Anderson resigned his position in July so the process of hiring a new police officer has begun. During the Mardi Gras weekend, one of the squad cars was struck and the insurance company deemed it a total loss but luckily no one was hurt. The insurance company processed the claim with a total payout of almost \$34,000 which is going to cover most of the cost of a new 2021 Chevy Tahoe.

Public Works Report. Nothing to report.

Administrator's Report.

Covering for Caboose and Railcar. Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by M. Reynolds, to approve the bid from Verdegan Construction for \$78,280 to construct a covering over the caboose and railcar at the Rusk County Visitor Center Rail Display.

M. Reynolds mentioned that with building material pricing coming down, it might make sense to rebid the project to possibly save the City some money. After checking with Verdegan Construction, the City will be purchasing the building materials directly from the vendors.

Mr. Pohlman, II mentioned that Ladysmith has a very nice rail display and encourages the council to do a better job advertising this attraction. Mr. Morgan invited Mr. Pohlman to take a look at the visitor log to see where visitors are coming from; Mr. Carlson said they are coming from all over ...even Sweden.

Mr. Reynolds withdrew his second on the previous motion.

Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by M. Reynolds, to amend the prior motion to approve the bid from Verdegan Construction, not to exceed \$78,280, with the understanding that the City will purchase the materials directly from the building material suppliers. M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-yes, J. Pohlman-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-no, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion passes 6 – 1.

Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by J. Pohlman, that any savings realized from purchasing materials directly on this project be used for advertising the rail display by print and television advertising at the discretion of City staff.

Mr. Pohlman withdrew his second to the motion when questions were raised whether TIF funding can be used for advertising.

Adm. Christianson reminded everyone that the Joint Review Board will be meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 3:00 pm in the Council Chambers to review the TIF plans.

Advertising in the Northwoods Fall Guide. Council members were asked to consider placing an advertisement in the Northwoods Fall Guide which will actually be more of a winter/spring advertising piece. It may be a good opportunity for the City to promote events (Winter Magic

and Fun on the Flambeau) along with information on area recreational trails (snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing) and area attractions. The Community Development Committee will be tasked with developing this advertising piece but everyone was encouraged to contribute their ideas; deadline to submit ad is September 22, 2021. Motion by M. Reynolds, seconded by J. West, to place a full page advertisement in the Northwoods Fall Guide at a cost of \$800 to be expended out of the Economic Development advertising/promotion budget line. B. Morgan-yes, J. Pohlman-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes. Motion passes 7-0

Update on former Methodist Church. Rusk County has put the project of razing the church building out for bids; bids were to be submitted by last Thursday.

Attorney's Report. Nothing to report.

Licenses and Permits. Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve the Operator Licenses for Maria Kriz and Chris Keach. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Pohlman, to approve the Chicken Keeping Permit for Karen Grode. Motion passes 7-0.

Mayor's Forum. Nothing to report.

Closed Session. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by J. Pohlman, to go into closed session under authority of S. 19.85(1)(e) for the purposes of deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or the conducting of other specified public business, as long as competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: for transfer of City owned property. J Pohlman-yes, G. Schueller-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes, B. Morgan-no. Motion passes 6-1.

Motion to adjourn by M. Reynolds, seconded by A. Hraban, at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk