

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

Monday, August 8, 2022 5:15 pm Ladysmith Council Chambers

Members Present: Mayor Grotzinger, M. Platteter, N. Johnson, J. Pohlman, A. Christianson, J. West, A. Hraban, M. Reynolds

Others present: L. Klink, Ray Carlson, Chrysa Ostenso, A. Christianson, A. Kenyon, S. Kavanagh, T. Carter, K. Gorseger, John Pohlman, II, Joe Baye, Ruth Meszaros, Heather Shineflew, Sister Mary McDermott and Sister Cecilia Fandel.

Call to order. Mayor Grotzinger 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 Mr. Johnson.

Minutes and Agenda. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by N. Johnson, to approve the July 25, 2022 and July 27, 2022 Council minutes and this evening's agenda. Motion passes by voice vote 7-yes, 0-no.

Resolution 2022-12. Chrysa Ostenso appeared and spoke in favor of the resolution; Sister Cecilia Fandal appeared and spoke in favor of the resolution; Joe Baye appeared and spoke in favor of the resolution; Heather Shineflew appeared and spoke in favor of the resolution. Mayor Grotzinger called for any other comments, none were offered. Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by M. Reynolds, to adopt Resolution 2022-12 In Support of Democracy and Nonpartisan Election Administration.

Mr. West commented that he doesn't see a need to pass a resolution to reinforce that our elections are safe.

Mr. Reynolds commented that there is a group out there that is trying to overturn the way we hold elections. He spoke in favor of the resolution.

M. Platteter then inquired whether we were approving the Resolution #17-22 adopted by the Rusk County Board or the Resolution #2022-12 that was included in the council packet. It was clarified that the motion was to approve Resolution #2022-12 that was included in the Council packet.

M. Platteter then made a motion to replace the word "democracy" in the first sentence of Resolution #2022-12 with "constitutional republic". No second was received. Motion fails.

J. Pohlman then clarified that he would not rescind his motion. The original motion made by J. Pohlman, seconded by M. Reynolds, to adopt Resolution #2022-12 In Support of Democracy and Nonpartisan Election Administration was passed with a voice vote of 6-yes, 1-no (West). Mr. West asked for a roll call vote: M. Platteter-yes, N. Johnson-yes; J. Pohlman-yes, A. Christianson-yes, J. West-no, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes. Motion passes 6-1.

John Pohlman, II encouraged everyone to get out and exercise their right to vote tomorrow in the Partisan Primary.

John Pohlman, III thanked everyone who attended the council meeting and encouraged them to come more often.

District 1, Platteter. Mr. Platteter reported that the Finance Committee met on August 2 and began the budget discussions. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, August 16th at 4:15 pm.

District 2, Johnson. Mr. Johnson reported that the Library Board will be meeting on August 16th at 5:00 pm and the Park Board will meet on August 10th at 5:15 pm at the Armstrong Pavilion in Memorial Park. Ray Carlson clarified that Corbett Lake matters go through the Park Board and rail display matters are handled through the Property Committee.

District 3, Pohlman. Mr. Pohlman updated the council that the Contract between the City of Ladysmith and the Servants of Mary has been signed and funds have been received for the Riverside Cemetery lots. He also reported that a Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9 and a Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 11th at 5:00 pm.

District 4, Christianson. Mr. Christianson reported that the Community Development committee met on August 3 and the only action that came out of it was a recommendation to the council for purchase of two signs for the rail display near the new Farmer's Market.

Rail Display Sign Purchase. Motion by N. Johnson, seconded by A. Christianson, to approve the purchase of two signs in the amount of \$37 to be placed at the rail display at the new Farmer's Market (Lake Ave and 3rd St). Motion passes with roll call vote; 7 yes, 0-no. M. Platteter-yes, N. Johnson-yes, J. Pohlman-yes, A. Christianson-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes.

Main Street Façade Program. Adm Christianson updated the council on discussions he has had with A. Christianson and M. Reynolds regarding possible changes to the Main Street Façade Program. One change discussed would be to make the program available to all commercial properties within the City limits and within a halo zone of an active TIF District instead of just commercial properties within the central business district. Council members reviewed a handout entitled "Business Renovation Program" with bullet points highlighting the current program and possible changes. Mr. Reynolds explained that one of the changes discussed is to offer a 0% forgivable mortgage over a 5 year period. If the property is sold prior to 5 years, a prorated portion of the funding would need to be repaid to the City at closing.

District 5, West. Mr. West thanked Mr. Carlson for his many hours of volunteer work. Nothing additional to report.

District 6, Hraban. Nothing to report.

District Seven, Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds will be holding a Legal Affairs committee meeting in the future to continue work on jake brake issues and train crossing issues. He also stated that it is

his intention to move reconsideration of the adoption of Resolution #2022-12 at the next council meeting or to find another council member who voted affirmatively to make the motion to reconsider. His primary reason for reconsideration of the motion would be Mr. Platteter's failed motion to substitute the word "democracy" for "constitutional republic".

Police and Fire Report. Nothing was reported.

Public Works Report. DPW Gorsegner reported that the utilities on 10th Street are basically done and the crew is awaiting safe water samples to come back. Summit Ave started today by clearing some trees at the end of the cul-de-sac and tomorrow they will begin work on the water tie-in on Cty. J and North Ave. In response to questions regarding the status of the Flambeau Ave street project, K. Gorsegner responded that engineering has not been completed yet for that street project.

Administrator's Report.

Rockwell Automation Walkway. Motion by A. Christianson, seconded by A. Hraban, to approve bid from Anderson Landscape in the amount of \$11,125.00 to construct a concrete sidewalk from an employee parking lot to the Rockwell Automation building, funded by TIF #14. Motion passes by roll call vote 6-yes, 1-no (Reynolds). N. Johnson-yes, J. Pohlman-yes, A. Christianson-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-no, M. Platteter-yes.

Rockwell Automation Loading Area. Motion by A. Christianson, seconded by M. Reynolds, to approve Rusk County Highway Dept. proposal to pulverize the asphalt area and pave loading area at Rockwell Automation main plant in the amount of \$46,250 to be funded by TIF #14. Motion passes by roll call vote 7-yes, 0-no. J. Pohlman-yes, A. Christianson-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes, N. Johnson-yes.

Attorney's Report. Nothing to report.

Licenses and Permits. Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by N. Johnson, to approve Operator's License for Steven Wandrie. Motion passes by voice vote 7-yes, 0-no.

Mayor's Forum. Mayor Grotzinger provided comment on the newly adopted Resolution #2022-12 stating that "up until now the council chambers have remained nonpartisan" as our council deals with subjects affecting the people of this community and have kept the national noise out of it. He stated that the resolution could have been tweaked a little bit to make things a little more accurate but he does support the language in the resolution regarding the work the clerks and local election inspectors do running our elections.

Closed Session. Motion by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Platteter, to go into closed session under authority granted in Sec. 19.85(1)(e) when deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; to-wit: To consider whether to enter into a joint effort with other public or private entities to undertake steps to reuse the current hospital for workforce or elderly housing, and to what extent. Motion passes 7-yes, 0-no. A.

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Christianson-yes, J. West-yes, A. Hraban-yes, M. Reynolds-yes, M. Platteter-yes, N. Johnson-yes, J. Pohlman-yes.

Motion by J. Pohlman, seconded by N. Johnson, to adjourn at 7:24 pm, motion passes unanimously 7-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Kavanagh, City Clerk