

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
September 14, 2015                      5:15 p.m.                      Council Chamber

**Roll Call.** Members present: K. Brown, A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: M. Platteter.

Others present: D. and G. Anderson, T. Carter, A. Christianson, H. Flater, K. Gorsegner, B. Grunseth, M. Klund, A. Lobermeier, L. Klink, D. Parker, J. Platteter, Tammy ?, D. Williams.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. A. Hraban led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 24, and September 2, 2015 Council meetings.

**Agenda:**

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

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Georgi Anderson appeared in regard to a Proclamation of National Assisted Living Week. Don Anderson and Tammy joined her in support. Mayor Reynolds read the Proclamation and asked for a vote to approve it. Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to do so.

At 6:35 p.m., Mayor Reynolds requested a motion to convene a public hearing on a proposed amendment Ordinance to revise rules governing location of open style fences in street yards. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to do so. Questions were raised about what types of fence might be permissible and how close to a street they might possibly be allowed. It was explained that, under current rules, decorative front yard fences may be up to 4' high and within 5' of the right of way line but, that with the proposed change the Planning Commission could allow such fence at the right of way line under conditions the Commission could impose. It was clarified that this would be for "open style" fences only, which could include split rail or chain link; although plantings and other types might also qualify. Mrs. Pearson reported receiving two calls in opposition, one of which suggested "fences don't make good neighbors". The hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Amendment Ordinance #2015-04 to revise street yard fence rules. Roll call vote:



Platteter-absent; Morgan-no; M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-abstain; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-no. Motion carried.

Mayor Reynolds asked for a motion to adopt Amendment Ordinance #2015-05 to revise rules governing ATV/UTV operation in the City. No motion was offered. It was agreed that, if the ordinance is to be brought back, it will need to go through the hearing process again.

A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Brown to add the following listed streets to the list of approved ATV/UTV routes kept by the City Clerk:

\*Worden Ave. from W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. to E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.

\*Lindoo Ave. from 1<sup>st</sup> St. to E. 12<sup>th</sup> St.

\*Baker Ave. from W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. to W. 13<sup>th</sup> St.

\*Pederson Ave. from W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. to W. 10<sup>th</sup> St.

After some discussion the motion and second were amended by their makers to add to that list that these vehicles may be operated along streets that form the shortest connection between the operator's dwelling and routes identified on the aforementioned list maintained by the Clerk. The amended motion was then carried by voice vote.

#### **District and Committee Reports:**

##### **District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter was absent.

##### **District Two, Mr. B. Morgan:**

Mr. Morgan reported that the contractor and others met at the site last week and that the elevation for the plow museum floor was lowered a few inches. Plans are to pour concrete next week. Mayor Reynolds, who is doing/donating work on under floor plumbing, advised that he will need advance notice to have that work done.

Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant Comptroller Verdegan authority to seek bids for health insurance.

Mr. Morgan suggested that the Corbett Lake dam structure be ordered. There was concurrence that no further approval is needed.

It was mentioned that the house on Lake Ave. W. that was burned as part of a training exercise needs to be hauled to a sanitary landfill. Although LFD participated the City does not own it so is not responsible for the disposal.

##### **District Three, Mr. M. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban advised that plans are to replace the Victory Tree next week. Mr. Gorsegner will plan to call Digger's Hotline this Thursday, which will provide a ten day window in which to get it done.



Mr. Hraban reported that he took the resolution objecting to proposed raised medians at the Lake Ave. rail crossing to the Rusk Co. Emergency Government Comm., which adopted it, and that he will be taking it to the full County Board September 29<sup>th</sup>. Later in the meeting Mr. Brown noted the City received an email indicating that, near month's end, the Commissioner of Railroads will hold a hearing here on the adequacy of warning devices at the Lake Ave. Rail crossing.

**District Four, Mr. K. Brown:**

Mr. Brown called attention to minutes of the August 31, All Committees meeting.

It was noted, during review of recent Finance Committee minutes, that among upcoming costs folks need to be aware of is \$16-17,000 to replace Mardi Gras lights strung along the south side of the river with new LED lighting, which will use far less power. The reason for replacement is that the wiring is shot. It has simply aged out and become brittle. Mrs. Stoneberg and Mrs. Pearson offered to do some fundraising for replacement lighting. It was mentioned that the power cost has been absorbed by Mayor Reynolds and his wife as the lighting is powered through their garage. A question was raised about the purpose of the lights. It is believed they were originally put up as a navigation aide for those operating floats in the Venetian Night Parade, as seeing around the body of the float is near impossible for drivers at the rear, and even for their spotters.

Mr. M. Hraban carefully reviewed minutes of the September 8, Finance meeting wherein there was discussion of the difference between the 2016 draft budget and 2015 actual budget, and ideas mentioned on how to bring the 2016 budget in line. The next budget meeting is slated for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**District Five, Mrs. B. Stoneberg:**

Mrs. Stoneberg had nothing to report.

**District Six, Mr. A. Hraban:**

Mr. Hraban reported that the Transit Commission met September 11<sup>th</sup>. He went on to say that he will ask the Commission manager to appear before the Council at an upcoming meeting to provide updates on grant funding and other pertinent aspects of local bus service.

Mr. Hraban advised that he will call a Public Works Committee as Mr. Morgan has requested.

**District Seven, Mrs. J. Pearson:**

Mrs. Pearson advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports, A. Lobermeier:**

Chief Lobermeier stated that he felt a recent train derailment exercise went well. It was noted that CN now has two railroad police, who happen to share jurisdiction for Rusk County. The DPW also felt the training was worthwhile. Concern was expressed that



LFD didn't participate in the recent exercise. A follow up session is tentatively slated for next April.

Mr. Morgan asked if Bakken crude oil is being railed through Ladysmith at this time, and if folks understand how volatile such shipments are. He went on to say that two explosive accidents that have occurred with this oil were at speeds of 32 m.p.h. or less. And, he added, an explosion on the line though downtown would be felt as far away as Highway 27. Those commenting differed on what they believe current train speeds through Ladysmith to be, but it is generally thought that curves in the line limit the speeds here to about 50 m.p.h., despite a posted sign indicating a limit of 60 m.p.h.

Chief Lobermeier reported that, luckily, a transmission failure in the Impala squad car, was barely within the warranty period.

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

The DPW responded to a question about what \$22,000 in engineering for the Lake Ave. resurface project is in the 2016 draft budget, when that is a WisDOT project, by advising that is to cover a prorated share of planning and design costs for the following:

- \*Reconstruction of handicap ramps at corners to meet current codes which differ from those in effect at the time (1991) of original construction.
- \*Minor land acquisitions to accommodate above noted handicap ramp modifications.
- \*Raising of manholes and valves to new surface elevation needed to provide more "crown" for shedding storm water.
- \*To pin together pavement panels that "rock" under heavy vehicles due to apparent underlying voids.

He concluded by saying that it isn't a cost the City has an option with. If the project is to proceed the City has to pay it.

Mr. Morgan noted that manhole lid support rings may be available, which can simplify raising those on Lake Ave. in conjunction with resurfacing that portion of U.S. 8 to include a slight increase in the crown. That is deemed necessary to maintain water flow when the present concrete surface is replaced by asphalt, which doesn't shed water quite as well.

DPW Gorsegner provided a detailed status report on attempts to get a safe water sample on the W. 8<sup>th</sup> and Roesler rebuild project, noting that safe samples have been obtained for 3 of the 4 involved blocks and that, if a safe sample isn't obtained soon on the last section, it may be dug up and replaced. Another approach may be to pull a chlorine treated ball/brush through the subject line in an attempt to clean it better.

It was noted, in response to a question, that dump box inserts have been ordered.

DPW Gorsegner displayed a photo of a gas service line bored through a City sewer City main, noting the danger that poses.





Mr. Gorsegner advised that a sewer jetter demonstrator unit might be here for viewing soon. He added that newer models typically have the equipment mounted at the rear of the vehicle as front mounted equipment was felt by WisDOT to be somewhat hazardous as it obscures the driver's vision.

DPW Gorsegner called attention to a letter from WDNR Water Supply Engineer Ken Scherer wherein the writer outlines certain deficiencies with the City's water system and WDNR expectations of how the City will address those. One of these is the need to demolish former City wells #2 and #3. Bids were sought last year for their removal, but none were received.

Mr. Gorsegner reported some good news in his role of Building Inspector; that being that the City has received an application for another new house permit and will have permitted as many as 13 new dwellings this year.

**Administrative Report, Mr. A. Christianson:**

Adm. Christianson asked approval of MSA Invoice #7, in the amount of \$17,104.50, for construction services on the W. 8<sup>th</sup> and Roesler rebuild project. A question was raised whether enough is being held back if safe water sample problems continue. An affirmative response was given. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Brown to approve payment. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Brown-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-absent; Morgan-no. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson passed around both a current photo of the former Finish Line tavern site and an altered photo showing how that same view would look if a wooden screen fence were erected there. He added that Lamperts quoted \$870 for materials and suggested that, perhaps, a Camp Flambeau crew could do the construction.

**Attorney's Report, Mr. A. Kenyon:**

Absent.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. M. Reynolds:**

Mayor Reynolds had nothing to report.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by Brown and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's license to Barbara Goben for Holiday.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a street use permit to the Ladysmith High School Student Council, Shelly Diamond representative, for the LHS Homecoming parade on October 2nd.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by Brown, which was seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

