

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
September 24, 2018                                  6:30 p.m.                                  Council Chamber

**Roll Call.** Members present: A. Christianson 2, J. Fields, A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Absent: J. Pearson.

Others present: R. Carlson, A. Christianson 1, K. Gibbs, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, D. Parker, C. Pohlman, J. Pohlman II, J. Pohlman III, V. Spooner.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Fields 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 September 10, 2018 Council meeting.

**Agenda:**

Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the evening's agenda, with items 10) c. and 11) a. to be removed

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Ray Carlson appeared to request that a list of items be placed on the next Public Works Comm. agenda.

Mayor Christianson read the Mayor's Reading Challenge Proclamation, challenging folks to read 20 minutes daily. Children's Librarian Valerie Spooner elaborated on how this challenge will be somewhat competitive with readers logging time spent reading daily. Winners will be announced at the November 12, Council meeting.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

None.

**District and Committee Reports:**

**District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter called attention to minutes of the September 12 and 19, Finance Committee meetings.

Motion was made by Stoneberg and seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve the monthly invoices.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Stoneberg to accept Marshfield SecurityHealth's Proposal to increase the City's health insurance premium by a favorable

4.1%. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; Platteter-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Morgan called attention to minutes of the Sept. 17, Personnel Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Morgan, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to place ads seeking a replacement for the City's Comptroller who is retiring about year's end. Atty. Kenyon suggested a couple electronic listing locations that might allow for "casting a wider net".

As planned raising of the front end of the FP7 locomotive by the visitor center hasn't gotten off the ground, Mr. Morgan stated an intention to reconnect the ramp and power connections for now. Calling attention to a vintage railroad depot bench placed temporarily in the Council Chamber, Mr. Morgan thanked Ken Phillips for restoring the metal frame. Mr. Morgan went on to say that he refinished the wooden slats himself.

Mr. Morgan advocated the City investigate establishment of a rail quiet zone. He also asked to be allowed to look into it even if others aren't interested. This led to a somewhat contentious discussion of why that came up after the entire Council voted to support a painted median only at the Lake Ave. rail crossing in order to avoid having a concrete median installed, which would have prevented some emergency vehicles from crossing.

Mr. Carlson told of a few near misses he has had at that crossing. He said he needs to hear the horns in order to know a train is approaching.

John Pohlman II advised that a quiet zone on the N-S line will not stop train horns on the E-W line. It was noted that any action to quiet them on the latter line may lead to closure of the E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. and W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. crossings, which have only cross bucks without signals. The E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. crossing is on a school bus route and closure of the W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. crossing would require those who cross there to cross at either W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. or W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. instead. Other Council members noted they want to be in on any discussions of quiet zones.

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

Mr. Hraban commented on the recent reduction in the number of applicants for police officer openings. Mr. Fields, Mrs. Stoneberg and others concurred noting lack of respect for officers and dangers of the job as likely contributing factors.

**District Four, Mr. J. Fields:**

Mr. Fields asked help in recalling the name of a fellow who offered to help build a replica of a plow (level land swivel plow) that was to be manufactured in Ladysmith over a century ago. That fellow was identified as Carl Plaza.

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

Mrs. Stoneberg advised that the Police and Fire Commission will meet on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

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

Mr. Hraban had nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Pearson was absent.

Mr. J. Pohlman II commented on a few items considered at the recent Park Board meeting, including that purchase of a new riding lawn mower was approved, and that the tennis court surface may have deteriorated beyond reclamation and may cost tens of thousands of dollars to replace.

**Police and Fire Dept. Reports:**

LFD Chief Gibbs was present.

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

The DPW reported that, later in the week, project engineering firm MSA will perform its final walk through of the E. 8<sup>th</sup> St./Center Ave./Pederson Ave. project.

DPW Gorsegner explained the route planned to be used to move the manager's house from the Evergreen Motel to the site of the former El Rancho Restaurant and Finish Line Tavern. A map of this route was provided. Mitchell Movers will provide Proof of Insurance. Motion was made by Fields, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to allow this move across City streets. A County or State permit may also be required.

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

Adm. Christianson requested action to authorize Mayor to sign paperwork accepting a WI Dept. of Administration offer of a \$25,000 CDBG Planning grant to investigate the feasibility of converting either the former armory or former elementary school into a community center. Matching funds of \$25,000 are planned to be taken from The Mining Fund. Motion was made by Fields and seconded by A. Hraban to approve authorizing the Mayor to sign acceptance forms with local match to come from The Mining Fund. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson called attention to three outstanding change orders to complete access improvements project at the Rockwell leased facility. The combined cost is \$1,625. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Fields to approve these with the cost to be charged against rent revenues for this facility. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes; Fields-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-absent; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

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

Atty. Kenyon had nothing to report.

**Mayor's Forum, Mr. Christianson:**

Mayor Christianson called attention to the Leaf it to Rusk Festival events to be held within the City this coming weekend, which will include a car show and live music downtown. He also asked for permission to use metal fire pits for people to warm up around if temperatures warrant and said he will take personal responsibility for them. No objections were stated.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve an operator's license for Melissa Miller for 211 Club, who had been approved by LPD.

**Other:**

Mr. Fields thanked Mr. M. Hraban and Mr. Morgan for their discussion of advantages and disadvantages of creating a rail quiet zone, adding that it was enlightening for him. Mrs. Stoneberg stated that folks should refrain from using coarse language.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion by M. Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan, the meeting was adjourned 6:05 p.m.

**Recorded by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Christianson  
Adm.-Deputy Clerk

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