

**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF LADYSMITH**  
September 25, 2017                      6:30 p.m.                      Council Chamber

**Roll Call.** Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, R. Moore, B. Morgan, J. Pearson, M. Platteter, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg. Absent: none.

Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, A. Lobermeier, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, L. Klink, S. Moore.

**Call to Order:**

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order and presided.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mrs. Stoneberg 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 11, 2017 Council meeting.

**Agenda:**

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

**Hearings and Appearances:**

Main Street Director A. Christianson 2 appeared to review results of the past weekend's Leaf it to Rusk Festival, noting the following:

- The car show, tractor show, model train show, children's activities and music seemed generally well attended.
- City Hall staff were very helpful across the board and the City crew moved tables and helped with other set up while displaying great attitudes even though some last minute requests were made of them.
- Council members were in attendance.
- Main Street will need to meet with the Council at some point to lay out strategies for going forward.
- Copies of an article from Sunday's Eau Claire Leader were distributed wherein the Altoona City Administrator emphasizes the need to upgrade that City's aesthetics in order to attract and retain young families that are needed to provide a work force. The Main Street Director asked that all present take time to read that article in its entirety. Altoona is trying to replicate some things Ladysmith already has, such as building an Amphitheater and a man-made creek. We, of course, have an amphitheater and the Flambeau River.

Mayor Reynolds thanked Mr. Christianson for his comments.

It was noted that the Public Hearing on the School District's request to convert streets near the Middle School to one-way has been reset for Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolutions and Ordinances:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to adopt Resolution #2017-15 to narrow a portion of E. 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.

**District and Committee Reports:****District One, Mr. Platteter:**

Mr. Platteter had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Morgan advised that the Personnel Committee will meet Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> with a focus on allocation of office space at City Hall. There will also be consideration given to providing some temporary help to the PW Dept. in view of two regular employees being out with injuries, and a third soon to undergo surgery.

He also reported that he was at the rail display from 8:30-1:30 Saturday, during Leaf it to Rusk, and saw many people visit it during that time. Adm. Christianson added that he recently checked the donation box there and found over \$500 in it.

Sue Moore appeared to make a second donation of \$5,000 toward the Lake Ave. Rail Display, adding that, if it isn't used for that purpose, she will need to get it back and apply it toward another community project. Mayor Reynolds and others thanked Ms. Moore for this second donation.

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

Mr. Hraban reported that Sheriff Wallace is trying to help with reducing troublesome rail crossing blockages, adding that a meeting with CN might be useful. It would be good if affected citizens could also weigh in at such meeting.

**District Four, Mr. R. Moore:**

Mr. Moore called attention to minutes of the Sept. 18, All Committees meeting and distributed minutes from Sept. 21, Finance Committee asking if anyone had questions.

It was noted that the October 2, All Committees meeting will include a review of the 2018 budget proposal in its current, balanced form.

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

Mrs. Stoneberg reviewed items to be considered at the Legal Affairs Committee meeting. It was agreed that meeting will be held Wednesday at 4. As A. Hraban is unable to attend, M. Hraban will stand in for him.

A question was raised about the seeming lack of recent progress on the amphitheater. It was noted that there has been a wait for metal roofing.

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

Mr. Hraban called attention to minutes of the Sept. 18, Public Works meeting.

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

Mrs. Pearson made a motion, which was seconded by A. Hraban, to proceed with a rail quiet zone study at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. There was mention of a quiet zones being terminated in Solon Springs and Waukesha or Wauwatosa and then being reinstated. Mr. Gorsegner clarified ???

It is believed that MSA had assisted Marshfield with establishing a quiet zone. As such Adm. Christianson asked that firm for a quote to assist Ladysmith. He was advised that a basic study will cost \$20,000, plus \$700 per crossing. If only the seven crossings on the N-S line are involved that will be an additional \$4,900. If the eight crossings on the E-W line are also involved that will be an additional \$5,600, for a potential total of \$30,500. Mayor Reynolds then reviewed a Proposal he received from Quiet Zone Consulting LLC, wherein that firm indicates all the necessary work can be accomplished for \$6,000. He went on to say that one reason the firm can do the work at less cost is that it doesn't use engineers as they are not required; that the firm relies instead on its experience. MSA is, on the other hand, a large firm with considerably more overhead costs. Mrs. Pearson then withdrew her motion and Mr. Hraban withdrew his second.

Mr. Morgan advocated for a "common sense" approach to train horn blowing. Mayor Reynolds indicated that the FRA will never allow it as that would make it too difficult to assign responsibility in the event of an accident. Mr. Morgan asked what a quiet zone actually looks like when required improvements are installed, and indicated he would like to travel to one or more communities to look at their quiet zones and ask locals about their perceptions of them.

It was reaffirmed that \$10,000 is designated in the fund balance for this purpose. Mrs. Pearson then made a new motion, and Mrs. Stoneberg seconded, to accept the Proposal offered by Quiet Zone Consulting to do the work for \$6,000, contingent upon receiving positive feedback on work the firm did for Sussex. Roll call vote: Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-no; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes. Mayor Reynolds offered to contact officials at Sussex and Marshfield for this purpose. And to join Mr. Morgan in a visit to Sussex.

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

Mrs. Pearson reported that Chief Lobermeier has officially advised the Police and Fire Commission of his intent to retire on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, but that, by using his vacation balance, he will actually plan to leave November 10<sup>th</sup>. He went on to say he has enjoyed his tenure here as Chief and will return as needed to assist the transition. And he stated that he will donate an as yet to selected pine log to the City to replace one Ted East will carve into a Native American statue for the City. Chief Lobermeier's comments were greeted with a round of applause.

Chief Lobermeier then introduced Lt. K. Julien as the P&FC's choice to succeed him as Chief, which also drew a round of applause.

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

The DPW provided the following updates on project progress:

- Water services are being tied into the new main on E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.
- There is a soft spot at the corner of Phillips Ave. and E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. S. that needs to be firmed up before Phillips Ave. can be paved, which could put it into next year.

After some discussion of problems already being endured with two crew members out with injuries, which are expected to worsen when a third public works crew member goes out for surgery, motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to allow the Personnel Committee the authority to decide on temporary hiring of three workers for a maximum of 600 hours each.

Motion was made by A. Hraban, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to approve of WisDOT Alternative #1 for the Lake Avenue Rail Crossing, which is a painted median only, and to so advise that agency.

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

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve an MSA invoice in the amount of \$6,849, for work on the 2016 CDBG project. Roll call vote: Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by Moore to approve an MSA invoice in the amount of \$1,781, for work on the W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N. project. Roll call vote: Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson requested approval of a 6.5 year lease extension with Rockwell with the intent that revenues from such extension be used to repay borrowing necessary to construct a 30,000 sq. ft. plant addition. It was mentioned that the City shouldn't be left to cover this cost on its own considering that about 70% of local manufacturing jobs are held by non-residents. Motion was made by M. Hraban and seconded by A. Hraban to approve. Roll call vote: M. Hraban-yes Moore-yes; Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson requested award of the construction contract for the aforesaid addition to the Rockwell plant to Ross Associates of River Falls, WI, in the amount of \$1,670,000. Motion was made by Moore and seconded by M. Hraban to approve. Roll call vote: Stoneberg-yes; A. Hraban-yes; Pearson-yes; Platteter-yes; Morgan-yes; M. Hraban-yes; Moore-yes. Motion carried.

Adm. Christianson noted some uncertainty whether it was the Council's intent to pay for its contribution to animal shelter construction in part from general fund balance as an

invoice for \$60,000 has been received from Rusk County. It had apparently been understood that Rusk County would borrow the entire amount needed, which may not yet be determined, and then invoice the City annually for a portion of that repayment.

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

Atty. Kenyon noted that federal quiet zone rules are 52 pages long, so quipped that he is happy the Council hired an expert to pursue that.

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

Mayor Reynolds requested Council approval of his appointment of Kyle Jeffress to the Park Board to fill a vacancy created by Becci Tucker's recent resignation. He noted that Mr. Jeffress has actively volunteered with the skate park and in other community efforts. Motion was made by M. Hraban, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to approve.

While a draft User Agreement with North Cedar Academy for the former Mount Senario athletic fields has been delivered to NCA to look at, it was decided to hold off on any action until we hear back after a thorough review.

**Licenses and Permits:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a tavern operator's license to Elizabeth A. Young for Holiday contingent upon LPD approval.

Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by A. Hraban and carried by voice vote to grant a street Use Permit to the LHS Student Council, c/o Shelly Diamond, for the LHS homecoming Parade on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. to begin at corner of E. 5<sup>th</sup> and Worden; follow Worden to W. 2<sup>nd</sup>; then W. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Miner; then, Miner back east to the Middle School.

**Other:**

Mr. Moore also asked those present to bear with him a couple more weeks until his hearing aids are replaced.

Mr. M. Hraban remarked how frustrating it is to have to clean up messes left by others, noting that he and other volunteers spent considerable time sprucing up (pun) the Victory Tree, Old Smoky, and the Vet's Mural so they looked good for Leaf it to Rusk Festival. He said it was ridiculous how many cups and bottles were laying near the Vet's Mural, in particular. Mayor Reynolds and Mrs. Stoneberg commended him for using his own time to take care of these facilities.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned shortly after 7:30 p.m.

**Recorded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Christianson