

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018, LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

3 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: A. Hraban, J. Pearson, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Kenyon, C. Schultz, J. Pohlman.

Call to Order:

Chair Stoneberg called the meeting to order and presided.

Charges for Services:

A draft ordinance providing for charging beneficiaries for no emergency services was distributed for a second time. Little input was received.

Dept. Controlled Accounts:

Copies of a first draft of a proposed ordinance to authorize the LFD to have one or two department-controlled accounts was distributed for review. Mrs. Schultz asked that a copy be forwarded to Chief Gibbs for his review. One account would be to hold monies and proceeds of fund raisers. LFD could draw on it for gifts, memorials scholarships and similar purposes, but it would be run through the City's books. This has been a practice, but not with benefit of an authorizing ordinance as required by State law. The library has as many as the Board controlled accounts, one of which is similarly for donations. It is uncertain what a second account would be for.

ATV Rules Change:

A draft ordinance that would make City rules consistent with State and County rules by not requiring operators to hold a Wisconsin Driver's license was distributed and reviewed. Local ATV enthusiasts had expressed support for this change at a prior meeting, but there were no appearances at this meeting. Committee members seemed to share Mrs. Stoneberg's concern that unlicensed operator's wouldn't be familiar with rules of the road. It doesn't appear that either an off-road or on-road driving test is required to get an operator's certificate. It appears it can be gotten on-line. It was suggested that, perhaps, ATV operator courses should require content on rules of the road, where many ATVs are now operated, and that driving tests should be included as well. Burt Zielke, Marc Egle and James Riddle may be course instructors. Adm. Christianson stated that he has a [perceived] conflict in this subject. No recommendation was made to forward the change to the Council. It was noted that farm vehicles such as tractors are exempt from such rules.

ATV Speeds:

A draft ordinance to have ATVs comply with posted speed limits for other motor vehicles was distributed for review. Support was expressed at a prior meeting, but the implementing ordinance hasn't been drafted at that time.

Video Surveillance:

Attention was called to the Rusk County animal shelter's Video Surveillance Policy, copies of which were distributed at the previous meeting. Some support was expressed for adopting such a policy. Those present were asked again to review it for discussion at a future meeting.

Electronic Smoking Devices:

Mrs. Stoneberg called attention to info she has gathered about "vaping". Schools are able to and do control it as they control use of tobacco products. Vaping products do contain nicotine and can be addictive. Copies will be made for those present to review.

Jaycee Agreement:

Adm. Christianson reviewed changes he has proposed be made to a long-standing agreement between the City and Ladysmith Jaycees which provides the latter exclusive use of Memorial Park during the Northland Mardi Gras, which it sponsors. He cited recent addition of the amphitheater and talk of relocating the skate board facility there as having potential to create area use conflicts if Mardi Gras rides may no longer fit. It was clarified that the proposed modifications do not give the Jaycees veto power over any changes proposed to the Park or its operation, but gives them a process to weigh in on changes that may be proposed, which could impact their ability to put on this traditional event. Copies were provided to those present, who were asked to review them before a next meeting. No objections were noted. [After the meeting a concern was raised just where the Park Board fits into this agreement. That is a good question. Arguably, the Park Board and Jaycees should be parties to the agreement, but not the City. Alternately, maybe it can be made a three-way agreement?]

Ground Level Residential:

Mayor Christianson commented on a desire to see ground level spaces in the downtown area reserved to accommodate commercial uses. He noted a recent resurgence in downtown property upgrades:

- Repainting exterior of City Hall.
- Planned outdoor seating area at DJs American.
- Conversion of former Goffin Oil to Taco Theory
- Conversion of former Jim's Mobil to Certified Automotive Sales and Service.
- Sale of former Northland Furniture and adjacent building.

He then went on to explain reasons why Wisconsin Main Street and similar programs nationwide advocate keeping ground floor spaces commercial. It was noted that several such spaces in Ladysmith's central business district were converted to residential in past decades, such that it may be difficult to bring them back.

Concerns were raised about folks renting the apartments at 113 Worden using the sidewalk in front as a personal living room, effectively blocking other pedestrian use. An attempt will be made to make the new owners aware of the City's façade assistance program, which could help to create an alternate outdoor space to the rear of this building.

Donations to Non-Profits:

A League of Wisconsin Municipalities opinion was distributed wherein it states that municipalities may donate to non-profits inside the municipalities where taxes were raised but not to non-profits outside. This prevents any donation to the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter [and, probably, the Rusk Co. Rodeo.]

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.