

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 05/08/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 8, 2023. Mayor Tara Tervort called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Tara Tervort

Aldermen: Terry Wilson
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier - absent
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood
Dixie Weidman

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Debra Perkins, Bill Hoffman, Deb Hyde, Marv Nevelier, Shannon Greenwood, Michael Durmeyer, Jeff Seamandel, Don Preisler, Steve Sitte, Wayne Schnautz, Michelle Rauschenbach, Christian Newbury and Travis Austin.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Bukachek commented about the bad smell for the past few days on the east side of the river. Alderman Weidman commented about the rough look where the meat market used to be. DPW Bill Hoffman commented that it will settle and be leveled off eventually. Alderman Mader commented that there has been work done on the little league dugouts. Mayor Tervort enquired who is doing the work. Comment was made that city crew is helping.

City Administrator referred to the letter from the City to St. Anthony's and that the demolition appears to be completed as requested making it safer in that area.

Alderman Bukachek asked if there is a list of allowed items in neighborhood yards now that the snow is gone and clutter is more apparent. Police Chief Nevelier responded there is, referencing number of cars allowed, junk, etc. City Administrator Michalek indicated that he will look at ordinances and revamp as necessary and put a copy in mailboxes for everyone.

Bill Hoffman commented that Fire Chief Larry Reas is doing well, and should be back to work shortly.

Chief of Police Nevelier commented that Nancy Dehmlow and Seth Fohr had been nominated and awarded a "Protect & Serve" award with \$1000 being donated to a non-profit organization of their choice. They've chosen to give the donation to the Chetek Fallen Officers Memorial. They will be going for their awards on May 15.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Public Works –

1. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the 4th of July request with modifications from the Young Professionals Group. Their request listed street closure of 2nd Ave N from 4th Street N to 1st Street South for the parade route. DPW Bill Hoffman commented that 2nd Ave may not be available due to construction at that time. The request is approved with modification as appropriate for that reason. The request also listed use of the Fireman's Stand from 12-8 PM and use of the Park Falls Athletic complex for the fireworks display as well as seating for spectators. Motion carried.
2. Use of Baseball/Softball Fields requested for the FlambeauRama Tournament. There was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the request. Motion carried.
3. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Corbett to approve the updated donation agreement that was handed out at the meeting. The amended agreement increased from 50 to 100 square feet of area. It was stipulated that the memorabilia to be displayed at the Depot Museum would remain Mr. Preisler's property, not the City's.
4. There was a motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the single bid for replacing the Depot roof. It was stipulated that the bid approval was up to \$35,000 and requires a detail of hourly rates to be provided to the City; and an additional \$10,000 is approved, if needed, without additional action being required by the Council. Motion carried 7-0.
5. Chicken Coop. Wayne Schnautz amended his coop location to be changed from his proposed drawing to the north side. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve the request and the new location as long as it meets the minimum ordinance distance requirement to the neighbors' houses and the size requirement for each chicken being housed in it. Motion carried.

Alderman Corbett made a motion seconded by Alderman Weidman to express the City's gratitude to Don Preisler's donation. Applause ensued.

6. Jeff Seamandel from MSA provided updates for the following:
 - a. 2023 Water Improvement Projects – 1st & 2nd Avenue, still waiting for the WDNR permit to go through. There have been delays on the DNR side of things.
 - b. Boettcher Road Utility and Street extension – will need to wait for the ground conditions to dry up to be able to proceed.
 - c. Old Abe Memorial Park Project – they are hoping to submit plans that are biddable on by May 18.
 - d. Neighborhood Investment Grant Administration – Since the YMCA site has moved there may need to be some setback adjustments made.
 - e. Water Utility Grant Administration – MSA is also researching the federal appropriation monies that may be available soon.
 - f. Tax Incremental District Creation – TID 6. DOR submit date is October 31, 2023.

Public Services –

1. Action Item: Park Falls Municipal Airport Courtesy Car Insurance. It is planned that a decommissioned police vehicle will become the courtesy car. This type of service is offered at other airports and would enhance and invite more airport usage in Park Falls. It was commented that we need 9 planes to home base in Park Falls to be eligible for more federal funding. Airport Manager Mike Durmeyer indicated that there would be a limit of time and mileage imposed on usage of the car, asking that the gas used be refilled by the person using it. Attorney Bryce Schoenborn agreed that it was necessary to have this sort of liability policy. The Municipal Insurance League will not cover a courtesy car. Alderman Corbett asked if there was a count of flights that used the Park Falls Airport. Mike didn't know but suggested that, based gas purchases at the airport, 20-30 a month. Other discussion took place about a maintenance plan to be put into action, it would be monitored

and reassessed after a period of time. The airport operating budget will allow for this as stated by City Administrator Brentt Michalek. Other avenues for insurance were looked into and a quote provided by National Indemnity Company. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the insurance policy of \$1,497. Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel – Approve Summer Help – Motion was made by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the DPW summer help and lifeguard applicants and to allow staff to continue to fill the summer positions and bring them to Council for ratification at a future meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Finance – Alderman Weidman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$298,054.46. Motion carried, 7-0.

Alderman Mader asked when the library would be getting their own credit card so employees did not have to be continually reimbursed for expenditures. Library Director Deb Hyde said that they would be getting their own card very shortly.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the Professional Services Agreement for Clean Water Fund Application, Administration and Federal Wage Rate Monitoring amount of \$41,000. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve Resolution 23-009 to Acquire Ownership Rights of Leased Park Property. Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve Resolution #23-010 to Commit Match Funds for CDBG. Motion carried 7-0.

Administrator update to Committee of the Whole on general city operations – With the YMCA planning to overhaul the City Hall building, it may be required to give some leeway for variances with parking and the building expansion. The library move is coming along. There is a contingency plan that we may need to occupy the 3rd floor of the library for a short period of time if construction is not completed in time for our move. Deb Hyde commented that the book-moving is being accomplished and book sale is coming. Books by mail will probably be ending soon.

At 6:25 PM there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (Regarding appointment of the DPW General Labor position); City staff Perkins, Greenwood, Hoffman and Michalek stayed for closed session. Motion carried, 7-0.

At 6:29 PM there was a motion to reconvene into open session and take possible action on closed session items by Alderman Mader, seconded by Alderman Weidman. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Debra Perkins
Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer