

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5/23/2022

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 23, 2022. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman
David Dryer
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-excused but attending in closed session via phone

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Larry Reas, Wanda Stemen, Steph & Wes Loften, Dixie Weidman, Christian Newbury, Jeff Seamandel and Robert Weber.

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

Alderman Mader made a motion and seconded by Alderman Dryer to approve the minutes for the April 19, 2022 Common Council meeting and the May 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor informed the council that the NorthLakes Community PILOT agreement is close to being signed. Alderman Bukachek mentioned that there is a strong smell coming from the mill sludge. Alderman Thier informed the council about a tree cutting service from Tomahawk. The Mayor has signed a Poppy Day Proclamation for May 27.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie and Wes Loften appeared before the council under public comment to ask if they could have access to the city's lift because they want to take siding off of the mall. Mayor Bablick informed that due to liability issues, the City is unable to rent out their lift.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance - Alderman Hoffman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$161,207.57. Motion carried, 8-0. Resolution 22-004: Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$1,506,531 Sewerage System Revenue Bonds. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0.

Personnel – Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to raise the wage for the part-time library workers to \$13/hour, effective May 24, 2022. Motion carried, 8-0.

Board of Public Works –The Memorial Day parade route was requested by the American Legion. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this request. Request from the Chamber of Commerce to change the route for the parade. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this amendment but a chamber member needs to be standing in the parking lot near Highway 182 to make sure no vehicles are parking in there. Christian Newbury presented a request to use both the softball and baseball fields for the Flambeau Rama softball tournament. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to allow this request as long as the appropriate forms are filled out and the refundable deposit is paid. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the cost of 50 banner brackets as long as the cost does not exceed \$2,500. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve an electronic sign by Franzen Brothers as long as the sign is within the parameters of our ordinance and there has been approval from the DOT. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the route presented for the SASSY 5K Walk/Run as long as Chief Ernst is ok with it. Motion carried. There was some discussion on the façade program. The Council directed Administrator Michalek to keep working on the requirements for this program. The pulp mill demolition application will be discussed in further detail during the closed session of this meeting. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve the American Asphalt bid of \$59,125.15 for 8th Avenue South from 4th Street to 7th Street. This will also be an LRIP project. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the American Asphalt bid of \$135,938.16 for 2nd Avenue North and 2nd Street South. Motion carried, 8-0. The council reviewed a bid from North Star Environmental Testing for three raze order properties: 349 8th Avenue South; 549 Division Street; and 744 3rd Avenue North. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this proposal not to exceed \$7,330. Motion carried, 8-0. Jeff Seamandel presented the updates from MSA on the different projects that have been taking place in the City.

Public Services – Resolution 22-005, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources NR208-Compliance Maintenance Resolution for the 2021 CMAR report was presented to the council. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this resolution. Motion carried. The pool fees were discussed. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the fees as presented. Motion carried 7-1, with Alderman Wartgow voting no.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – Nothing to report.

City Administrator Michalek – The City will be going to their summer hours starting on May 27 until September 2.

Attorney report – Nothing to report.

Clerk and Treasurer Smith – The audit is still in the process of being complete.

Library Director Hyde – Nothing to report.

DPW Director Hoffman – The City is putting up flags on the street light poles.

Chief of Police Ernst –Nothing to report at this time.

Fire Chief Reas- Nothing to report.

At 6:47 PM, there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to convene into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1) (f)-considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. (Regarding Economic Development Fund Loan Repayment); and pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1) (f)-considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. (Regarding City of Park Fall Ordinance Discussion, Sec. 11.2.17); and pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g)-conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (Regarding an update on paper mill and update on agreement with current owner of the mill). Motion carried, 8-0. Staff remaining included Administrator Michalek, Clerk and Treasurer Smith, Police Chief Ernst, and DPW Director Hoffman. Robert Weber was also present for the first topic. Attorney Schoenborn appeared on the phone.

At 8:14 PM., there was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Mader to reconvene into open session, for discussion and /or to take possible action on closed session items. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer