

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 09/18/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 18, 2023. Mayor Tara Tervort called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Tara Tervort

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

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Marv Nevelier, Jeff Seamandel, Scott Schultz, Gary Wollerman, Deb Richter and on the phone, Jordan Thurow from Baird.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Weidman to take A.2 off the agenda and to move 8.A.6 to right after 8.A.1 and to adopt the agenda with these changes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Mader informed the Council that the Beautification Committee picked up the flowers that were downtown. Mayor Tervort let the Council know that her and Scott met with the St. Croix executive, and he expressed a need for housing for his employees. Administrator Michalek informed the Council that he received an email from Robert and Sandra Kennedy and they are requesting that the Trick or Treat hours be moved to 4 p.m.-6 p.m. on Halloween.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During Public Comment, Gary Wollerman expressed concern over fiscal responsibility of the City and other forms of government. He is concerned with where is all the money coming from for all the different projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Tervort made a suggestion that the Halloween trick or treat hours be from 4:30 PM-7 PM due to a number of concerns she had received from parents. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to have the Halloween trick or treat hours from 4:30 PM-7 PM on Halloween. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Weidman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$745,058.28. Motion carried, 8-0. Justin Thurow presented some information for the upcoming borrowing to the council. This resolution will be presented for a decision at the September 25, 2023 meeting. Resolution 23-015: Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures was presented to the Council. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. Resolution 23-016: Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of up to \$120,173 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2023, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants with Respect Thereto was brought in front of the council. This resolution is for the Safe Drinking Loan, which would provide a 20-year loan with an interest rate of 1.287% for 20 years. The total award amount is \$343,353 but there is principle forgiveness of \$223,180. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. Resolution 23-017: Declaration of Official Intent

to Increase Water Rates in Accordance with the PSC Final Decision, 455-WR-107. Motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0.

Board of Public Works –Scott Schultz informed the Council of an upcoming proclamation that needs to be done in order for the City of Park Falls to become a tree city. A tree planting and a proclamation will be done before the end of the year. A sample proclamation was included in the board packets. The Chamber of Commerce presented requests for their upcoming Fright Fest. They would like to use Old Abe Memorial Park for a pumpkin drop, Halloween crafts and costume dance; have a street closure on 2nd Ave. North from Division Street to 1st Street and on Division Street from the railroad tracks to 1st Avenue...This closure would take place from 3 PM-8 PM.; request the use of the following streets for a hayride: 1st Street in front of the Park Theatre to 1st Ave. to 5th St. then down the alley behind the softball field onto 3rd, back to 1st; and would like to request the use of an above ground fire pit and/or patio heaters on 2nd Ave. N and/or in Old Abe Memorial Park. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve these four requests. Motion carried. Resolution 23-018: 2023 Raze Order was presented to the council for discussion. There was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader to authorize the administrator to work with the city attorney to begin the title reports for the locations listed. Motion carried, 8-0. There was a quote from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$9,300.00 for WWTP Lagoons. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this quote. Motion carried, 8-0. A quote from Crane Engineering in the amount of \$17,428 for Lymantown Lift Station pump was presented to the council. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve this quote. Motion carried, 8-0. An agreement for the topographic survey for 1st Avenue North and River Road was presented to the council from MSA in the amount of \$18,700. This expenditure would be taken from the \$3.75 million grant money. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 8-0.

Public Services – There was nothing to present.

Personnel – Chief Nevelier informed the council that Wendy Ford, the Police Department Administrative Assistant is resigning. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Weidman to have the administrator bring back a proposal about part-time vs. full-time to the council at the September 25, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Administrator update to Committee of the Whole on general city operations – The Old Abe Memorial Park is getting ready to bid in January. The specs will be presented to the council in November. The Chequamegon School District is getting bids for the athletic complex, mainly the track area, to be redone. More information will follow at a later meeting date.

At 7:11 PM there was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wilson to convene into closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Regarding TID Agreement Extension-Dema Dima Properties, LLC) Motion carried, 8-0. City staff Smith, Nevelier and Michalek stayed for closed session. Deb Richter was asked to stay for the first part of closed session. City staff Nevelier left before discussion began with council.

At 7:40 PM there was a motion to reconvene into open session and take possible action on closed session items by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Weidman. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer