

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 04/10/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, April 10, 2023. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman
Dixie Weidman
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett-Excused
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-Excused

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek-Excused

Also present: Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Shannon Greenwood, Deb Hyde, Jeff Seamandel, Marv Nevelier, Tara Tervort, Larry Reas, Mike Mockler, Diane Mockler and Benjamin Fox.

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

There was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes for the Common Council meeting on March 13, 2023. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Mader commented on the gorgeous weather we are finally having.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

NEW BUSINESS

Mike and Diane Mockler appeared before the council to discuss donating a bench @ Hines Park. They would be responsible for the cost of the concrete pad and the bench. Mayor Bablick noted that the City needs to create a contract to make sure items donated do not go into dilapidated status. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to allow this bench once a contract is drawn up and signed. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$407,819.95. Motion carried, 7-0.

Personnel-There was nothing to report.

Board of Public Works – The Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce submitted a request to use 5th Street North for the festivities of Flambeau Rama. Motion by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this request. Motion carried. Mayor Bablick stated that he would like something written up by the Chamber with their exact requests and items that they no longer need. The Park Falls Beautification Committee would like to request \$1,000 for the brackets that are needed to hang the plants in the downtown area. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this request. Motion carried, 7-0. There was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to name the city park, “Old Abe Memorial Park”. Motion carried. There was a

motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to name the street right by Old Abe Memorial Park to Old Abe Parkway. Motion carried. The 2023 water improvement project bids for 1st and 2nd Avenue North and the mixers in the towers were presented to the council. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the lowest bid of \$1,840,421.69 from Francis Melvin, Inc. Motion carried, 7-0. The permit for right of way access was brought to the council. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve this permit. Motion carried. Jeff Seamandel from MSA presented the MSA updates.

Public Services – Nothing to report.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – He presented a recap of his tenure as mayor which he submitted for the minutes. He announced Tara Tervort had won the position of Mayor and Terry Wilson won for 2nd District Alderman. He would like the council to preserve the history of older buildings if possible. The depot will not officially be the City's for 5 years but there does need to have some maintenance needs addressed. A museum is definitely needed for the history of Park Falls and this would be a great location. He advised the council to continue chasing grants and continue to engage with the youth in the community. The water and sewer utilities should be something that the council continues to monitor and raise when appropriate. Starting on May 8, he will be the City Administrator for the City of Portage but if anyone needs anything, they can reach out to him. He also mentioned that Benjamin Fox is a great resource for preservation of different projects through the City. Finally, he thanked everyone for the last four years as Mayor and was very happy with the progress that the City has made. Alderman Greenwood stated that the City of Park Falls thanks Mayor Bablick for all of progress that he has been a part of as well as thanked Alderman Hoffman for his time on the council.

City Administrator Michalek-Will be back shortly from his medical leave.

Attorney report – Nothing to report.

Clerk & Treasurer Smith – The April 4 election had 631 voters cast their ballot. Clerk and Treasurer Smith mentioned how nice the Mayor's haircut was and showed appreciation for everything he has done.

Library Director Hyde – April's calendar was handed out with a mention to library week taking place at the end of April.

DPW Director Hoffman – There are 12 applicants for the DPW position and interviews will be held soon. The crew has gone from snow plowing to trying to get rid of the water that is due to the change of weather.

Chief of Police–A background check was completed on the new employee and he is scheduled to start on May 1, 2023.

Fire Chief Reas – They have been helping the ambulance crew with calls.

At 6:17 PM there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to convene into closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin State 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. (Discussion of backup leachate agreement between the City of Park Falls and Park Falls Operator, LLC.) City staff Smith, Greenwood, Nevelier, Reas, and Hoffman stayed for closed session. Mayor Elect Tara Tervort was asked to stay for closed session. Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion to reconvene into open session and take possible action on closed session items by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Weidman at 6:25 PM. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer