

COMMON COUNCIL 7/26/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, July 26, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman-excused
David Dryer
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood-arrived at 5:18 p.m.

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-excused

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Deb Hyde, Caroline Corbett, Jeff Seamandel and Deb Richter.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to adopt the agenda with modifications to 9B 7&8 getting moved to new business. Motion carried.

Alderman Mader stated that in the July 16, 2021 Public Services Committee meeting minutes, there should be an additional option of looking at the current city hall site for a new building. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the Common Council minutes of June 28, 2021, the special meeting of the Common Council on July 6, 2021, the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of July 12, 2021, and the Public Services Committee minutes on July 16, 2021 with the amendment mentioned. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Thier brought up some complaints he was hearing on the speed bumps that were recently placed at Hines Park. Mayor Bablick discussed a concern regarding the tennis courts and possibly creating a pickle ball court. Alderman Bukachek mentioned that GPS units are misleading individuals to Hines Park. Hopefully putting up Hines Park signs will help with the incorrect directions. Alderman Corbett informed the Council that the Lions Club have placed new bleachers by the t-ball field that is located at the Industrial Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Euclide, CAO of the Marshfield Medical Center-Park Falls was present, via zoom, to discuss the upcoming hospital project. The project is looking at being completed in 2024. For the other new business, Glen Wegner was not present and therefore, the billboard discussion did not occur. Boettcher Road was discussed with

Attorney Bryce Schoenborn on the phone. Alderman Mader made a motion and Alderman Greenwood seconded this motion to file a notice of the public highway to the Register of Deeds regarding Boettcher Road. Motion carried. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to recommend the discussion with the north/south alley between Case Avenue and Sherry Avenue and Highway 182 and Spruce Street to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance - Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$596,888.94. Motion carried, 7-0. Melvin Companies pay application no. 2 was presented in the amount of \$369,853.20. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0. The annual budget survey was handed out to the council members and is to be completed and returned to the City Administrator.

Board of Public Works – MSA was present to give an update on the hospital projects and to let everyone know about the bid amounts for the Hwy. 13 sewer extension project. The bids came in at approximately 50% more than the estimates. A bid from James Peterson Sons, Inc came in at \$135,477.83 and the other bid was from Howard Brothers in the amount of \$137,589.00. The council chose to take no action and will have the administrator talk with the representative from the Forest Service to find out how they want to proceed. The council is stating that they would stay with the motion that they would pay 50% of the original cost of \$78,000. Administrator Michalek presented a 10-year service agreement to perform inspection services on our water towers and wells from KLM Engineering that would cost \$7,950 per inspection at the 5-year and 10-year mark. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this agreement. Motion carried, 7-0. There were three requests from the Chamber of Commerce in regard to Flambeau Rama: use of the council room for the Evergreen Road Run; the use of the streets for the parade on August 1, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. until completion and the use of Division Street for the mini car races from 10:30 a.m. until parade start. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve these requests. Motion carried. Administrator Michalek presented a bid from North Star Environmental Testing, LLC in the amount of \$2,300 for air sampling and material assessment for city hall. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Corbett to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0. Howard Brothers presented a proposal for an additional sidewalk at the alley project downtown in the amount of \$36,778. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this proposal. Motion carried, 7-0.

Public Services – There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to hire a consultant to look at the current and future space needs of City Personnel (Police, Fire, Administration, Library); to explore the cost of a new city hall at the current location; to explore additional locations for City Hall (locations to be determined at the next Public Services Committee meeting); look at a combined Library/City Hall as a permanent location and look at other locations for a temporary option. Motion carried.

Personnel - There was nothing to report under Personnel.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – monthly report – there is a minor bidding war taking place for the papermill right now. The buyer will be announced on August 23, 2021.

City Administrator Michalek – reminded everyone that there is a housing study meeting on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a Flambeau Rama meeting at 10 a.m. at City Hall with the Chamber, DPW and Police.

Attorney report – nothing to report

Clerk and Treasurer Smith – informed everyone that the auditors will be here on September 13th to discuss the 2020 audit.

Library Director Hyde – circulation is going up and the WIFI recently went through an upgrade.

DPW Director Hoffman – Saunders Avenue is done and River Road is almost complete. There has been no word on the start date of 5th Street North micro-surfacing yet.

Pool Director Corbett – was not present for her report, but Clerk and Treasurer Smith gave an update. Daily swimmer numbers are still about the same as the beginning of the summer. The pool will not be open for lap swim or open swim this Friday and Saturday because of Flambeau Rama.

Chief of Police Ernst – informed the council he was at a DARE Association meeting and Mark Richter received the DARE officer of the Year for 2021. He is looking at a 3-4 weeks yet for the new squad to be on the road.

Fire Chief Reas - starting to look at the recommendations from PAA.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer