

COMMON COUNCIL

7/27/2020

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session in the council chambers of the Park Falls City Hall at 5:00 PM on Monday, July 27, 2020. 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 Richard Scharp Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett—via phone Anthony Thier Dina Bukachek –via phone Dan Greenwood---via phone
City Attorney:	Bryce Schoenborn-excused
City Administrator:	Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Scott Hilgart, Jerry Ernst, Deb Hyde, Mark Weddig (left after public comment), Dave Dryer via phone and an unidentified caller.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to adopt the agenda with a small adjustment of Resolution 20-014 being put under Public Services instead of Board of Public Works. Motion carried.

The minutes of the 6/22/2020 Council, 7/13/2020 Committee of the Whole and 7/20/2020 Special Committee of the Whole meetings were presented. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, the City Administrator informed everyone that the Chamber will be approaching the council for requests for the Flambeau 40 Bike Race. Scott Hilgart updated the council regarding the tornado whistle going off for 35 minutes on Saturday. It was struck by lightning and was stuck in the on position. Jerry Ernst said he and an officer tried to turn it off but then contacted Pieper Electric. Pieper will continue working on it in the weeks to come.

Mark Weddig from the school appeared before the council to inform them on the roadmap for school in the fall. At this point, there are three options....normal entry where everyone is back at the buildings. There would be extreme cautions in place. The second option is a blended school where PreK-5th would be in the building and 6th-12th would be virtual learning. The last option would be where everyone is virtual learning. In the case of virtual learning, the school day would be four hours a day. This would be similar to what they experienced in the spring but much more updated. They have researched the different options and have been in close contact with Michelle Edwards from the Price County Health Department. On August 14th, they will be informing parents the decision that they will be using for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year.

There was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$140,288.42. Motion carried, 8-0. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve Resolution 20-013: 2020 Budget Amendment transferring \$55,000 from Swimming Pool to Parks. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under the Board of Public Works, there was discussion on a quote from Northern Dock and Walkway of Eagle River for the stump cutting at the Park Falls Airport. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the quote from Northern Dock and Walkway in the amount not to exceed \$15,000, unless authorized by the City Administrator with the limit not to exceed an excess of \$2,500. If this amount is exceeded, the Board of Public Works would need to have an emergency meeting to approve/disapprove the additional spending. Motion carried, 8-0. There was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve a purchase agreement with David Schnautz in the amount of \$40,000 for 2022 yds. of screened topsoil. 1200-1300 yds. will be needed for the downtown project and the remaining would be split amongst water, sewer, cemetery and parks. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Public Services, Resolution 20-014: Consideration of the issuance of a raze order under 66.0413 for the following properties: 172 2nd Ave. North, 184 2nd Ave. North, 307 1st Ave. North, 349 5th Ave. South, 349 8th Ave. South, 449 Division Street, 459 Division Street, 498 Avery Ave., 621 7th Ave. South, 744 3rd Ave. North, 973 9th St. South and 277 1st St. North was presented to the council. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 6-1-1, with Alderman Hoffman saying no and Alderman Wartgow abstaining.

There was nothing to report for the personnel meeting.

Under the Mayor's report, Mayor Bablick let everyone that the mill is still working on getting everything up to date. There are several grants that the City is working on at the present time including one for the hospital area and the upcoming firetruck purchase. The City did receive the CDBG housing grant in the amount of \$33,666.67. The City of Phillips and the City of Park Falls will be issuing a press release shortly on the acceptance of this grant.

City Administrator and Clerk Michalek informed the council that the staging for the downtown project is scheduled to begin on August 15th. The ending date is still scheduled for the end of September. There should be a sign by Forward Bank and the City going up soon. The auction brought in approximately \$3,000. Not a huge dollar amount, but the City was able to avoid sending those items to the landfill. On August 10th, the wage and comp study results will be disclosed. PAA has completed the personnel manual and Mr. Michalek will be working through it over the next couple of weeks.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that there will be an election on August 11, 2020 and there will be in person absentee voting on July 29th, August 3rd and August 7th from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. In addition, Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith let the council know that the City had received a partial check for logging from R.M. Bay Logging in the amount of \$10,931.69.

Library Director Hyde let the council know that the library hours are now 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and there have been roughly between 30-40 people that have been coming in every day. They are allowing 12 people at a time and the four computers that are available all now have a one-hour time block. Once the books and magazines are brought back from a patron, they are quarantined for 72 hours before being placed into circulation again.

Police Chief Ernst stated his officers have not been receiving as many speeding complaints that they have had in the past couple of months. On Monday, July 20th, there were five canine units in Park Falls that were doing training. They used the airport area as well as the fire/rescue training building on Case Avenue.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart let the council know that his crew has been busy trying to catch up on projects. They are hauling rocks near Hines Park and putting culverts in where needed. In addition, his crew has been getting ready for the paving company which will be here within the next couple of weeks. Numerous aldermen stated that they have received positive comments on Hines Park. Alderman Wartgow commended the crew on the tasks they have been working on this summer.

Fire Chief Reas was not present but Alderman Hoffman informed the council that out of the five Wisconsin companies that they requested specs from, four have submitted proposals/specs.

City staff members Michalek, Smith, Ernst, Hyde and Hilgart all left the meeting. All callers except for the aldermen were disconnected from the meeting.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to go 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. "Discussion on performance evaluation and contract negotiations between City Administrator/Clerk and the City of Park Falls." Motion carried, 8-0.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to reconvene into open session at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk