

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 08/14/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, August 14, 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---Excused
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood
Dixie Weidman

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Marv Nevelier, Shannon Greenwood, Larry Reas, Jeff Seamandel, Steve Sitte, Gary Wollerman, Terry Wilson, Tammy Hastings, Jason Hastings and Linda May.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Administrator Michalek passed out a list of dates for an upcoming borrowing that will be taking place for the City. Alderman Mader commended the businesses in the City that took advantage of American Asphalt having their plant in the area to redo parking lots. Clerk and Treasurer Smith informed the council about the upcoming pool parties that will be taking place. The council was also informed of the upcoming public hearing from the PSC for the water rate increase that will take place on September 5, 2023 at 10 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tammy Hastings gave an update from La Roca to the council. She appreciates the council's patience and she still wants to open up the restaurant. Steve Sitte pointed out that the culvert that was put in at 535 Saunders Avenue should not be the responsibility of the new homeowner.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor would like to reappoint Terry Wilson to the vacant 2nd District Alderman seat. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this reappointment. Motion carried, 6-0. Alderman Wilson was sworn in at the meeting. Linda May, CEO from YMCA of the Northwoods, was present to show appreciation to the council and the city for the support shown towards the YMCA. There was an amendment for the division of city hall property presented to the council which allows an additional 12 feet south of the current property. Motion carried, 6-0-1, with Alderman Wilson abstaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Weidman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$282,094.46. Motion carried, 7-0. There was an agreement presented to the Council from MSA in the amount of \$36,500 to administer the CDBG PF 23-15 Grant. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0. A software proposal from Workhorse was presented to the council for approval in the amount of \$24,300, which is for the initial setup. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this proposal. Motion carried, 7-0.

Board of Public Works –There was a request for a chicken permit from Mrs. Oskvarek at 356 Court Street. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this request. Motion carried. A driveway permit was presented for 449 7th Avenue South. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve this permit but subject to compliance with green space ordinance. Motion failed. More information is requested from the homeowner. A driveway permit was presented for 1160 Saunders Avenue. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this request. Motion carried by voice vote with one opposition. Two driveway permits were presented for two different parcels, both owned by Molling Towing & Recovery. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve the first parcel’s driveway request and the other one is also approved but subject to the condition that an application must be submitted and the fee paid before this is granted. Motion carried by voice vote with one opposition. The notice to abate nuisance trees was presented for four different properties. The trees have been taken care of at 584 6th Avenue South and 300 9th Street North. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Weidman to declare the tree located at 276 5th Avenue South a nuisance. Motion carried. There was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader to declare the tree at 200 1st Avenue North a nuisance. Motion carried.

Public Services – There was nothing to present.

Personnel – There was nothing to present.

Administrator update to Committee of the Whole on general city operations – The city hall’s design has been sent to the state. It usually takes up to three weeks to hear a response from the state. The advertisement for bids will be posted in the paper this week. There will be a bid opening at 2 p.m. on September 5. The Parks and Rec. Director will be starting their position on August 21, 2023 and will have their first meeting with their committee on August 31st. The City has been talking with the Chequamegon School District about the upcoming cost of redoing the existing track. Currently, the City has a contract with the Park Falls School District and not Chequamegon School District. The pickle ball court area was discussed and a figure of \$270,000 was mentioned that would cover the resurfacing of the court. There will be other alternatives looked into as options.

At 6:20 PM there was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader 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. (Regarding TIF Development Agreement at 219, 229 and 239 2nd Avenue North); and 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. (Regarding sludge pits) Motion carried, 7-0. City staff Smith, Hoffman, Reas, Nevelier and Michalek stayed for closed session. Alderman Mader excused himself for the first discussion item. Jason and Tammy Hastings were asked to stay briefly for the closed first item.

At 7:20 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 Wilson. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer