

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 08/22/2022

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, August 22, 2022. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman-Absent
David Dryer-Absent
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn - absent

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Debra Perkins, Bill Hoffman, Deb Hyde, Jerry Ernst, Gary Wollerman, Dixie Weidman, Terry Wilson, Jeremy Pesko, Larry Reas, Jeff Seamandel, Shannon Greenwood, and Kyle Cronan.

There was a moment of silence to honor and remember Alderman David Dryer, who passed away on August 12, 2022.

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

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the minutes for The Common Council meeting on July 27, 2022, the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes on August 1, 2022, the Plan Commission meeting minutes on August 4, 2022 and the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes on August 8, 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor informed the council that a sample of the grubs at Nola Cemetery have been taken to the UW-Madison to determine the species and eventually get a recommendation for the best way to get rid of them. Bill Hoffman indicated that they are looking at planting grub-resistant grass seed and set the mower to a higher level when mowing. There was some discussion about checking with our insurance company to see if we could file a claim.

The Mayor recognized Michelle Smith for her work coordinating the swimming pool operation this summer.

There will be a City workers' cookout Wed, August 24 for city workers, Aldermen are invited as well. Food was left over from the Pool party last week.

A handful of new banners have been put up and look very nice. A comment was made that the League of Municipalities are quite surprised by the amount of money Park Falls has been granted this year. The Mayor received some unusual cell phone calls over the weekend, speculating that they were spam calls generated from information that is listed on the City's website. It was recommended that phone numbers be less visible on the website. Kyle Cronan, new Superintendent of Chequamegon School was introduced.

Brentt introduced a memo from Jeremy Pesko about putting up netting to protect the Recreation arena from balls from the softball fields. Jeremy presented concerns about balls hitting people and the building. He

indicated that he had talked to B & B Insurance about who is liable for damages. Alderman Mader mentioned their new sign and how nice it is. Brentt Inquired about having a City Logo on the wall inside. Michelle will follow up with paperwork as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. (someone suggested the new net could be a tax write off if donated.)

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$156,934.46. Motion carried, 6-0.

Brentt handed out a “Local Government Annual Budget Process Budget Year 2023 to the Aldermen to fill out and return to him. There is a 5.4% increase projected for insurance. Brentt will start meeting with department heads in September to go through the budget with them. Alderman Wartgow asked if a chart could be made up so they can see the current percentages.

Personnel – Brentt discussed in detail the proposed new hours for City Hall offices to be open to the public. The current 35 hours a week that the Clerk’s office is open to the public will be increased to 36 hours per week. The present schedule has 7 hours that other personnel cover the front desk.

New City Hall office hours will be Monday through Thursday open 8 AM to 4 PM, Friday open 8 AM to noon, year-round. The Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer’s hours will be 9 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Thursday with Friday hours being 8:30 AM to noon for a total of 29.50 hours worked per week. Other staff will cover the front desk hours for 8.5 hours per week that the Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer is not scheduled to work.

DPW hours are 6:30 AM to 4 PM with ½ hour off for lunch (9 hour a day) Monday through Thursday and 7 AM to 11 AM on Friday (4 hours).

Alderman Wartgow made a motion to accept the presented schedule of hours. Alderman Mader seconded, motion carried.

Board of Public Works –

Chamber request for Flambeau 40 Bike race approved, Alderman Wartgow made the motion, Alderman Their seconded, motion carried.

Alderman Mader made a motion, Alderman Bukachek seconded to approve the Contractor’s application for pay, motion carried 6-0

Alderman Mader made a motion, Alderman Their seconded to approve the Change order which is \$3,051.19 less than the original bid.

MSA update was presented by Jeff Seamandel. Permits are done. City Hall space needs study is done. City Hall redesign is still in progress., hope to be presented soon. City Park design is in progress, soil boring should be done soon. There will be a public meeting for both the Hall and park designs. Lagoon Baffle Replacement has been started. Hospital project has been done.

A visiting pilot recently pointed out that the airport beacon at Park Falls Airport is partially being blocked by trees on the southwest side. Park Falls Country Club has agreed to allow the City cut down the poplar trees where needed and remove them. Alderman Mader made the motion, Alderman Their seconded, motion carried.

Public Services – The Mayor and City Administrator presented the idea of Community Wayfinding Signs in the City of Park Falls. Kyle Cronan has participated on such a committee elsewhere and is willing to assist. The Mayor will bring ideas to the Council.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS –

Mayor Bablick suggested that he could appoint someone for the vacant Alderman position and present to the Council for approval to have someone fill David Dryer's position.

City Administrator Michalek reported that only 2 internal applications have been received for the Chief of Police position by the first deadline. Department Head interviews will be set up for August 31 with the two applicants, after which the Personnel Department will meet and make a decision. It was pointed out that the position is open until filled, more applications could be accepted until the position is actually filled.

The WATCO land transfer should be wrapped up by the end of September or early October.

Alpha Development Corporation is working on plans for Single family and apartment housing to be built within the next couple of years.

The Safe Streets Grant application is still in progress to be submitted by September 15.

Athletic Complex meeting was held last Friday with the School District. It was commented that the vagueness of the agreement needs to be worked into something more definite.

The library weather camera is here but still needs to be installed.

City offices will be closed Friday, September 9 for Customer Service training that is for all City employees.

Attorney report - There was no report.

Clerk & Treasurer report – none given.

Library Director Hyde indicated that their book drive sale was successful. Another aide had resigned but 5 interviews are set up, replacement is expected next week.

DPW Director Hoffman – new banners have been hung, they look great. Christmas lights are being changed out this year.

Chief of Police Ernst updated the council about a recent sexual assault investigation. The suspect had been picked up in GA and returned to Price County. He mentioned that there had been 4 arrests in 14 days of intoxicated City Residents on UTV/ATV. The DOJ has given permission to use the \$7000 grant. The grant will be used for body cams and other equipment that needs to be updated. The 2022 squad car has been fully outfitted and is ready to use.

Fire Chief Reas reported that the fire truck pumps have all been re-certified. Looking at having the ladder certified again. Found tires from DPW that will fit and will save on the cost of replacing them.

At 6:56 PM there was a motion by Alderman Greenwood, seconded by Alderman Wartgow, to convene into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1) deliberating or negotiating the public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. *Regarding City owned property proposal with Marshfield Medical Center, Park Falls.* motion carried, 6-0 Staff remaining included Administrator Michalek, Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Perkins, Police Chief Ernst, DPW Director Hoffman. Executive Assistant Greenwood was also present.

At 7:36 PM there was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to reconvene into open session. Motion carried, 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM

Debra L Perkins
Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer