

COMMON COUNCIL 8/23/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, August 23, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:03 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

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-appeared by phone in closed session

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Michelle Smith, Deb Hyde, Larry Reas, Jeff Seamandel and Ray Schutte.

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

Alderman Greenwood made a motion and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes for the July 26, 2021 Common Council meeting; July 28, 2021 Special Meeting of the Common Council; and the August 9, 2021 Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Bablick introduced Ray Schutte, new interim school superintendent to the council. Administrator Michalek passed out an email received from the pool director.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance - Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$507,688.74. Motion carried, 7-0. Melvin Companies pay application no. 3 was presented in the amount of \$550,269.55. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0.

Board of Public Works – The council was presented with a request to use the safety training house for the Haunted House 2021 from Michelle Smith, on behalf of the Haunted House Committee. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to allow this from September 1, 2021-November 15, 2021. Motion carried. MSA was present to give an update on the hospital area project. Centurylink (Lumen) will have all of their poles down this week for the alley project.

Public Services – There was discussion on the MSA contract for space needs study and preliminary design work for City Hall possibilities. It was mentioned that the library should not be listed as a temporary space option. #6 in the contract should also be taken out. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve the expenditure of \$18,500. Motion carried, 7-0.

Personnel - There was nothing to report under Personnel.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – nothing to report

City Administrator Michalek – The downtown alley project is moving along nicely.

Attorney report – nothing to report

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

Library Director Hyde – Starting on September 7, the hours will be from Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be a community meeting on September 14 at the library. Channel 12 is thinking of putting a weather camera on the library roof.

DPW Director Hoffman – Saunders Avenue is all finished.

Chief of Police Ernst – informed the council his office is currently working on an embezzlement case involving two local businesses.

Fire Chief Reas - The new fire truck is in production.

There was a short break at 5:55 p.m.

At 6:03 p.m., there was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g)-conferring with legal counsel for the governing 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 receivership of Park Falls Development, LLC); and pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(e)-deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Regarding property within the City limits located at 349 8th Avenue South). Motion carried, 7-0. Staff remaining included Administrator Michalek, Clerk and Treasurer Smith and Chief Ernst.

At 6:57 p.m., there was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to reconvene into open session, for discussion and /or to take possible action on closed session items. Motion carried, 6-1, with Alderman Dryer saying no.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer