

COMMON COUNCIL
10/26/2020

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, October 26, 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-via online David Dryer Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett-via online Anthony Thier-via online Dina Bukachek Dan Greenwood-Excused
City Attorney:	Bryce Schoenborn-excused
City Administrator:	Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Scott Hilgart, Jeff Seamandel from MSA, Jerry Ernst, Jacob Smutzer, Bonnie Dryer, Deb Hyde and Larry Reas.

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

The minutes of the 9/28/2020 Council and 10/12/2020 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, Mayor Bablick asked Jeff Seamandel to give the council an update on the hospital area reconstruction project. The TID amendment has been submitted to the state. Mayor Bablick informed the council that he, Brentt and Michelle met with Jeff Belongia regarding financing different projects throughout the City in the next year. Chief Ernst introduced Jacob Smutzer as a new full time officer for the City of Park Falls. There was also a plaque presentation in honor of Mark W. Richter.

There was no public comment.

Under old business, the Mayor appointed David Dryer to fill the vacancy left by Richard Scharp in the third district. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to accept this appointment. Motion carried. There was a brief pause to swear in David Dryer as alderman.

Under new business, the Mayor discussed the November meeting dates. The Committee of the Whole will still be meeting on the second Monday of the month, but there was a recommendation to move the November council meeting to November 30 so that the budget could also be approved that day. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve this date change. Motion carried.

Under Finance, the 2021 budget update was discussed. City Administrator and Clerk Michalek informed the council that he had an offer to purchase 184 2nd Avenue North in the amount of \$15,000. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to accept this offer. Motion carried, 7-0. The contract for assessor services with Bowmar Appraisal was discussed. The 2021 year is contracted for \$12,700 and the 2022 year is contracted for \$12,900. Motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to accept the two-year contract as presented. Motion carried, 7-0. The City of Park Falls received a

\$40,498 route to recovery local government grant. The following items are being considered for purchase: \$22,413.98 to update the phone system; remaining funds to go towards computers for training and video conferencing with the fire department and computers throughout the city offices as well as updated water filtration and controls. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve these expenditures. Motion carried, 7-0.

Under Board of Public Works, there was nothing to report.

Under Public Services, there was nothing to report.

Under Personnel, City Administrator and Clerk Michalek presented the COVID-19 policy. Motion by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Dryer to approve this policy. Motion carried. He then informed the council that the employee policy handbook was in the process of getting updated.

The Mayor made an appointment of Luke Larson as a part-time police officer. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this appointment. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Clerk Michalek informed the council that the Forward Bank foundation should be getting laid this fall. He gave a brief update on the raze orders that are still outstanding.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that there were 425 absentee voters for the November 3, 2020 election. There are still two more in person days left for in-person voting this week. There will be no recall election for the governor. For the November 3 election, all voters will be entering through the south entrance doors; there will be seven workers on the two shifts.

Library Director Hyde let everyone know that the hours are still at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The third floor is still closed to any activities.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart informed the council that the SCADA system will be getting updated around December 10. In addition, all the parks are now shut down for the 2020 season.

Police Chief Ernst told the council that his department has been extremely busy with various items.

Fire Chief Reas stated that the department is still looking for pricing of the fire engine.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Corbett to convene into closed session at 6:56 p.m., pursuant to Wisconsin 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. (Discussion of DNR Asbestos/Demolition Compliance) 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, for consideration of eminent domain for the property that Krist Oil Co., Inc. owns.) Motion carried, 7-0. City staff members Michalek and Smith stayed for closed session.

There was a motion by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Mader to reconvene into open session at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk