

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 11/15/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, November 15, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM 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

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Deb Hyde, Bill Hoffman, Dixie Weiland, Larry Reas, Jerry Ernst, Missy Negri, Carol Mader, Connie Neeck, Louise Ohlrich, Pat Ohlrich and Jack Zahn.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to move finance to after personnel and then adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Bablick informed the council that the City has successfully submitted the grant for the YMCA in the amount of 6 million. Clerk and Treasurer Smith let the Council know that the City received a check from the league in the amount of \$2,998 from a park & recreations grant. Mayor Bablick read a letter to the council that he received from an anonymous citizen regarding speeding taking place on Saunders Avenue and vandalism occurring at Hines Park. Ms. Louise Ohlrich stated that she wrote the letter that was addressed to the council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Under public comment, the council heard several complaints about excessive speeding and vandalism at Hines Park from Connie Neeck, Louise Ohlrich and Patrick Ohlrich. Louise Ohlrich stated that because there are no sidewalks on Saunders Avenue, individuals have to walk on the road. In addition, the Hines Park walkway is nice, but is not maintained in the winter. Connie Neeck asked if a camera could be put up to capture license plates of speeding vehicles to issue tickets; Chief Ernst responded that option is not legal in the State of Wisconsin. Louise Ohlrich and Patrick Ohlrich stated that something has to be done with the vandalism at Hines Park. Connie said Hines Park is beautiful and she has seen a decrease in speed when the speed bumps were installed. Louise also mentioned there are two lights out in the Hines Park area. Chief Ernst responded that he is trying to have his officers spend more time in that area but as soon as the officer leaves, it seems that is when the speeding is taking place. Louise Ohlrich, Connie Neeck and Missy Negri stated that the police have their permission to sit in their driveway to catch potential speeders. Mayor Bablick emphasized that if anyone ever witnesses speeding or wreckless driving, to please contact the police and make a report. Alderman Wartgow informed the council that they tried to keep the Hines Park walkway open in the winter, but there was a problem with the cleaning equipment going into the river because of the close proximity of the trail to the river. Missy Negri appeared before the board on behalf of the Park Falls Recreation Arena to ask the City if they were interested in sponsoring open skates. Administrator Michalek referenced an old contract that the City had with the Arena and stated they should put something in writing before the 24th of November and present it to the board for 2022 budget consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Carol Mader appeared before the council to ask if Catkins could use any City space to offer a low-cost spaying/neutering clinic for cats. Missy Negri said the arena might be able to help with this request and will approach her board. She will let the council know if the arena has a space Catkins can use or not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Public Works – There was a request from the Tuscobia Winter Ultra group to use city roads and use city hall for the Winter Ultra from December 31, 2021-January 2, 2022. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this request. Motion carried. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to have Pieper Electric install an 800 ampere 120/240 VAC electrical service at the downtown park location in the amount of \$25,500. Motion carried, 7-0.

Public Services – There was nothing to report.

Personnel – There was nothing to report.

Finance –Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$304,774.46. Motion carried, 7-0. Administrator Michalek passed out and discussed the preliminary numbers for the 2022 budget. A memorandum of understanding was presented for approval between the City of Park Falls and the Park Falls Library Board of Trustees. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this memorandum of understanding. Motion carried, 7-0.

Administrator update to Committee of the Whole on general city operations – Administrator Michalek had nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer