

**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**11/30/2020**

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, November 30, 2020. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor:	Michael Bablick
Aldermen:	Chris Hoffman David Dryer Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett-via online Anthony Thier Dina Bukachek Dan Greenwood
City Attorney:	Bryce Schoenborn
City Administrator:	Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Scott Hilgart, Jerry Ernst, Deb Hyde, Larry Reas and Jeff Seamandel from MSA

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

The minutes of the 10/26/2020 Council and 11/18/2020 Personnel Committee meetings were presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, Scott Hilgart informed the council that he will be retiring effective June 7, 2021. Jeff Seamandel from MSA presented an update on items that they are working on for the City. Mayor Bablick informed the council that Forward Bank sent the City an informational sheet that the City has earned over \$95,000 in interest in our investments. Treasurer Smith handed out the 2020 actual expense numbers to all of the council members. Mayor Bablick informed the council that Michael Boushon is resigning from the Plan Commission because he has now moved out of the area.

There was no public comment.

Under new business, the 2021 budget hearing was called to order. City Administrator Michalek reviewed the 2021 budget presentation and Mayor Bablick opened up the meeting for discussion from the public at 5:50 p.m. No public comment and the meeting was closed for discussion at 5:57 p.m. Resolution 20-017, Adopting the 2021 City of Park Falls Budget and General Property Tax to Support the Budget was presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. There was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to adopt the wage and comp. study. Motion carried. Ordinance 20-004, a Salary Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 08-001 of the City of Park Falls was presented. Alderman Mader made a motion and Alderman Greenwood seconded to approve paying aldermen \$70/meeting (up from \$50/meeting but eliminating the annual salary) and the mayor would receive \$70/meeting and \$6,000 per year. This salary change would take effect in April of 2022. Motion carried, 7-1, with Alderman Hoffman voting no. It was discussed moving the December council meeting to December 14, 2020 in place of the committee of the whole meeting. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this change of meeting date. Motion carried.

Under Finance, Alderman Greenwood made a motion and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the bills of \$634,204.57. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Board of Public Works, the Chamber of Commerce had a request to use Hines Park on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from noon until 10 p.m. for a chamber event and to use Saunders Avenue from Hwy. 182 to Hines Park for a horse drawn sleigh/wagon ride from 3-7 p.m. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve these requests. Motion carried. There was discussion of acceptance of a vehicle from the Phillips Police Department for an airport courtesy car. Discussion ended when there was no motion. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Corbett to have City Administrator and Clerk Michalek make an offer not to exceed \$5,000 to purchase the lot that is currently owned by the Hammerstrom family located at the Northwest corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and Division Street. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Public Services, there was nothing to report.

Under Personnel, Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood made a motion to appoint Michelle Smith as the Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Park Falls, effective January 1, 2021. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under the Mayor's report, he recommended the appointment of Joseph Oskvarek to the Planning Commission. Motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this appointment. Motion carried.

City Administrator and Clerk Michalek had nothing to report.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that there were 1173 voters in the November 3, 2020 election and 500 of those were absentee voters. The next election is scheduled for April 6, 2021 with a possible primary scheduled for February 16. This is the election for four aldermen and the mayor. (The aldermen included would be Greenwood, Hoffman, Dryer and Mader.) Alders need 20 signatures and the mayor needs 50. Nomination papers are due January 5, 2021. During tax time, there will be specific dates that the south entrance will be open....more information will be presented at the December meeting.

Library Director Hyde let everyone know the library is now closed to the public but her employees are still working and able to help patrons if they call ahead of time.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart had nothing to report.

Police Chief Ernst informed the council that the K-9 training went very well in the City of Park Falls and the K-9 handlers were very appreciative to the City for the handlers to be able to use some City facilities. Officer Smutzer is now all trained and Officer Larson should be trained by mid-December.

Fire Chief Reas stated that the department is still looking for pricing of the fire engine. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, there were no fires; just a lift assist asked of the fire department.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session at 6:54 p.m., 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.) and 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) Motion carried, 8-0. City staff members Michalek and Smith stayed for closed session.

There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to reconvene into open session at 7:18 p.m. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith  
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk