

## COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6/14/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, June 14, 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 (on phone)

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Victor Ambrose, Marvin Nevelier, Luke Larson, Phil Bochler, Jacob Smutzer, Brian Schmidt, Beckie Gaskill, Sean Peterson, Theresa Zoubek, Robert Zoubek, Joel Eder, Jack Zahn and Dave Wagner.

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

There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the Common Council meeting minutes of May 24, 2021. Motion carried.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The City has been awarded the WEDC Community Development Investment Grant in the amount of \$250,000. The City received the dividend check from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities in the amount of \$14,370. The form for the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act was officially submitted. City Administrator Michalek received an office lease from CEP which needs to be discussed at a future meeting.

During public comment, Victor Ambrose spoke on behalf of the school district and let the council know that they will be hiring Raymond Schulte as Interim Superintendent, starting on July 12.

**NEW BUSINESS:** City Administrator recognized the retirement of Scott Hilgart and his 30 years of service to the City. Chief Jerry Ernst and Sheriff Brian Schmidt commended and recognized Sergeant Robert Zoubek, Deputy Joel Eder and Deputy Sean Peterson for their heroic actions on a recent fire that took place in Park Falls. Chief Larry Reas and Assistant Chief Phil Bochler also recognized and commended these three officers for their bravery. Mayor Bablick presented Resolution 21-010-Support of Wisconsin Legislature's "Mill Bill". Alderman Wartgow made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood that the council support this bill. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance** - Alderman Wartgow made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$372,073.67. Motion carried, 7-0. The Mayor presented a non-binding letter of intent in

support of proposed housing development on the Flambeau River. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this. Motion carried.

**Board of Public Works**-City Administrator Michalek presented a BART bus initial plan review which included a larger than permitted curb cut. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve the plans as presented. Motion carried. The Mayor and City Administrator have been talking with the owner of 219 Division Street regarding the demolition and clean-up of the property after the fire that took place at that location. The owner is willing to work with the City to make sure everything is cleaned up. Director of Public Works Director Hoffman presented a quote in the amount of \$12,298.00 from Crane Engineering to replace the check valve that is not working properly. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0. It was discussed that the parking restrictions that are on 5<sup>th</sup> Street North from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North to the baseball parking area should be reestablished and signs should be put back up. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to allow this. Motion carried. There was some discussion on the corner lot of 1<sup>st</sup> Street North and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North. Administrator Michalek will be sending out an invite to an informal meeting to all the surrounding business owners to discuss the future of that location. The downtown park has been mowed and will be maintained by the city crew. There was a request for a street closure from the American Legion Post 182 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to allow this closure. Motion carried.

**Public Services** – Liquor license applications were discussed and it was noted that they will be up for approval at the next meeting. There was a temporary class “B” liquor license application from the American Legion Post 182 for July 4, 2021. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Dryer to approve this license. Motion carried. Resolution 21-008 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources NR208-Compliance Maintenance Resolution for the 2020 CMAR Report was presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this resolution. Motion carried. Resolution 21-009 Adoption of the 2019 Price County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 7-0. There was some discussion on regional broadband and the need for it in our area. The Mayor will work with the CDC and create a meeting and a committee to discuss this need in further detail. The Mayor gave an update on operations of the pool.

**Personnel** – Alderman Wartgow made a motion to approve the following mayor appointments of the fire department officers: Chris Hoffman to Captain; Ken Hegeman to Lieutenant; and Dave Chamberlain to Lieutenant. Motion carried.

**Administrator update to Committee of the Whole on general city operations** – Administrator Michalek updated everyone on PAA with the fire department report, the MSA housing study report, the forestry study, the Krist Oil property and the squad car replacement.

**Convene into closed session:** Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood at 6:53 p.m. to convene into closed session 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 personal injury and/or property damage claim) Motion carried, 7-0.

**Reconvene into open session to take action, if any, on closed session items:** Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Dryer to reconvene into open session at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried, 6-0, with Alderman Corbett not present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM

Michelle M. Smith  
Clerk and Treasurer