

Common Council Meeting minutes, January 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: D. Stephenson, C. Ekern, J. Anderson, J. Tranberg, T. Wheeler, J. Rawson.
Others in attendance: Attorney-Mark Radcliffe, TCT-Andrew Dannehy, Water/Sewer Manager-Joshua Greenwold, ADRC-Penny Paulson, Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Public Comment: D. Stephenson was contacted by Cheese Fest Chair regarding concerns over the Broadway/Pearl Street project and its effect on Cheese Fest. Penny Paulson from the ADRC expressed concerns over the growing number of elderly within the City that need extra help. Volunteers are needed for shoveling sidewalks, providing transportation, delivering meal, cleaning houses, etc...

Motion by J. Anderson to approve both 12/2/2022 and 12/8/2022 council minutes, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to accept and place on file the minutes from the 12/7/2022 Public Property & Buildings meeting, the 12/12/22 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meeting and the 12/28/2022 Water/Sewer meeting, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Tax, Finance, & Personnel Chair – J. Anderson stated the committee recommends approval of Officer Kokott's request to extend his response time, without precedence. **Motion by C. Ekern to allow Officer Kokott to reside within 30 miles of the City of Blair, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.** Also recommending Clerk/Treasurer Fremstad be allowed to carry over her extra vacation hours from 2022, as a onetime request. If not used this year, it will be lost. **Motion by C. Ekern to allow extra vacation time to be carried over just for this year, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Water & Sewer Chair-T. Wheeler stated the committee recommends replacing the Olson Street lift station pump and Joshua is recommending a backup pump be ordered as well. **Motion by J. Anderson to purchase 2 pumps for \$5890 each for the lift station on Olson Street, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.** The main lift station fine screen needs replacing, which involves hiring a crane. The estimate is around \$10,000. AMPI helps pay for repair costs at the lift station through their quarterly billing from the City of Whitehall. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve fixing the fine screen at the Main Lift Station, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.** The clear well at the Water Treatment Plant and the 2 reservoirs are cleaned by divers for around \$3650 per day. The clear well needs immediate cleaning. **Motion by J. Anderson to schedule clear well cleaning, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: D. Stephenson-the clear well is as soon as possible, the reservoirs are on a 5 year schedule, correct? Yes, that is correct. Amended Motion by J. Anderson to schedule clear well cleaning, and get on a maintenance plan as needed, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none.**

Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. The sewer pipeline to Whitehall needs the brush and trees cleaned out of the area. The City would need to buy or rent out a skid steer to maintain this line in the future. We have an estimate of around \$20,000. We need to be proactive instead of reactive and get our equipment updated. A skid steer would benefit all area of the City. We need railroad and sand mine approval to do this. The Council would need some rental, lease and purchase quotes for a skid steer and more information and bids for the cleaning of the main sewer line to Whitehall. Also discussed was more sewer lining to be done soon. Stephenson-can we get an estimate again from Ellingson Infrastructure Management for what has been proposed? C. Ekern-have we looked into the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Grant? **Motion by J. Anderson to table this discussion until more concrete numbers can be given, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Building permit report for informational purposes only.

Bartender Application: Linda Curran. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve server application for Linda Curran, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Motion by C. Ekern to pay the bills, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Next meeting February 6, 2023.

Motion by D. Stephenson to adjourn at 7:24 pm, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debi Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer