

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, was duly called, noticed, held and conducted in the manner required by the Common Council and the pertinent Wisconsin Statutes on January 6, 2020. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor A. Knutson; Alderpersons-W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, M. Lisowski, Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson, Trempealeau County Times.

Public Comment: (Due to 'Open meeting rules' City is unable to respond to public comment unless on the posted agenda) Randy Obieglo wanted to know if Council gets paid, felt like they should be out and about knocking on doors checking with residents/businesses. ***Clerk research-Mayor and Council member contact information is posted at City office or available by calling the office. Council members/Mayor get interaction/thoughts/comments often with Blair residents and business owners through daily City business.** Obieglo said City sent 'clean up' letters out in November and nothing has been done. ***Clerk research-Council said letters were being worked on, not sent out, but that much of this will have to wait until spring. City Council did approve our police department to monitor and work to remove vehicles and public nuisance type things that can be worked on in winter.** Obieglo also stated incorrectly Chief Wheeler's retirement was on the agenda – it was not. He is hoping for more information on Chief Wheeler's employment with City. Also, stated he did not think Blair needed 3 officers. Concern about shed he states is in poor condition near his residence. In general he wants more action from City Council meetings. Clerk will research and attempt to answer Obieglo's concerns.

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 12/2/19. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve 12/2/19 minutes as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Annual SPW Preston 2020 road agreement renewal presented for review/approval. Only change made to previously approved agreement was the dates from 2019 to 2020 and that this has already been approved by Township. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

S.E.H. Reports: Consider request to advertise '2020 drainage improvements project'. Plans have been finalized for this project and it is recommended we send out for bids. As a reminder, advertising & bidding the project doesn't obligate the City to constructing the project. **Motion by M. Lisowski to approve as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Motion by J. Anderson to open Liquor License Public Hearing for Bullpen Sports Bar (formally Honey Hole), 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Mayor Knutson called for any public comment related to Bullpen Sports Bar Liquor License request, hearing none. **Motion by M. Lisowski to close public hearing, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Motion by M. Lisowski to approve Liquor License for Bullpen Sports Bar as presented, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Reports: Joint Review Board Annual Meeting on 12-9-2019- Clerk Frederixon reported, this is a requirement of the D.O.R. The Cities four open TIDs were completely reviewed with Brian Reilly of Ehlers, the required meeting was held, resolution filed and the report done. All active taxing districts were represented, BTSD, City, County, WTC and Public member. Open TID's are # 4 – Industrial park grain bins, # 5 – Allied Grain on east end of City, # 6 – Downtown Business district, # 7 – Wildcat Residential Development. TID's 4-6 are projected to pay back all funds by closure of these districts. TID 7 is projected to have a negative balance at the end of its life. The City does have capacity needed to create a new TID or expand boundaries of existing TIDs. The City will continue to review opportunities to retire debt early. Ehlers summarized by saying all City TIDs are healthy.

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Combination Business & Economic Development & Finance Committees on 12/9/2019/. Chairperson C. Ekern reported: This meeting was held to update the finance committee on projects being discussed within the Business and Economic Development Committee and Revitalization of downtown discussions. No recommendations at this time.

Fire Board Meeting on 12/12/2019: C. Ekern reported: Tim Robertson briefed the board on the end-of-year finances. At this time we are under estimates for spending, but more bills are likely to come due soon. The board was presented with a copy of a proposed Auto Aid Agreement between Blair-Preston FD and Whitehall-Lincoln FD. The Board recommends adding Termination language to the agreement (Motion by Chris Ekern, 2nd by Dohn Galstad - all in favor). The Board recommends the agreement (with Termination language inserted) for approval by the City of Blair and Town of Preston when they meet in January, prior to presenting the agreement to the City of Whitehall and Town of Lincoln (motion by Chris Ekern, 2nd by Darrel Nelson - all in favor). The Board's only nomination for chairperson was Darrel Nelson (Ekern, Mattison, Hamble, Galstad voted Yea, Nelson voted nay). Darrel is the Fire Board Chair. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve 'Blair-Preston Fire Department/Whitehall-Lincoln Fire Department AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT' with Attorney Robertson's suggestions, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: Brief explanation from Chief Armitage & few Council questions. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Water/Wastewater Meeting on 12/11/2019/T. Wheeler Chairperson reported: Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Bob Fraust reviewed recent video of sewer mains, 25% of lines are reviewed each year, showing areas of infiltration on Pearl Street and the alley, pipe separation on Broadway and some issues with a pipe on Hwy. 95. All Mains are in safe condition as a utility for the public, but infiltration costs money and should be eliminated where possible. Recommends need to work with Street Committee to plan for utility upgrade projects on an ongoing basis. Fraust also noted that the Iron Plant is in need of some maintenance and he is working on that. Fraust also had a concern about his unused vacation balance, stating the demands of the position interfered with him being able to use it and requested consideration other than the \$50 per day for 2019 unused vacation determined by full Council. Committee said the decision had already been decided on and would stand. Committee recommended that Fraust should improve communication with public works co-workers when he needs assistance on a priority basis and vice versa.

Business & Economic Development Committee Meeting on 12/12/2019/C. Ekern Chairperson reported: Brief meeting prior to the larger Community Economic Development Group meeting. City portion included review of meeting with City Finance Committee, update on Ordinance Committee work, binder, mission statement and Chamber updates also. Blair Community Forward Planning Discussion Meeting 12/12/2019. Per C. Ekern this meeting was directed by WI Economic Development Corporation, regional Director Mark Tallman. Community center was filled with wonderful energized community members looking to assist with revitalizing our City/Community. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats were reviewed with group. Next steps were planned. Hoping for good works from this group.

Joint Waste Water Advisory Board Agenda: Attendance: AMPI Manager: Trent Sterry, Blair: Ardell K., Chris Ekern, Terry Wheeler, Bob Fraust, Whitehall: Bob Sendelbach, Jeff Hauser, Ashley Slaby, Mark, Johnson, Karen Witte, (S.E.H.) Jerry Dorriet. AMPI gave the following report: Updated wastewater numbers that AMPI had from November and early December. Our influent numbers have been averaging 5,000# per day, and TSS 768# per day. These numbers going into our pond are great and where we want them at on a consistent basis. The effluent numbers are also looking in check. We have had a few outliers. Some were during our line breakage, and also a couple high days were at the end of November when we had a cheese plant issue and it was not addressed properly. Those issues were resolved and will not be reoccurring issues.

AMPI Waste Water report continued: I reiterated that our daily monitoring of influent wastewater will continue. It was mentioned that we had a blower go down in December as well. It was down from Dec. 9th, and fixed on the 19th. The AMPI pond is in good shape and is foreseen to stay that way. Also reiterated that all employees are made aware of Wastewater and the importance it has to keep our facilities running efficiently. Each facility had no planned updates. AMPI plans to dredge the remaining solids in the spring time/early summer this year. Chairperson T. Wheeler reported all meeting participants seemed to have their questions answered and were ok with information provided.

Clerk report: Reminder to nomination forms have to be into the City office by 5 pm on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. We do have residents that have requested papers for all 3 Wards this year. Nathan Dahl – Ward 1 - not turned in yet, John Rawson – Ward 2 – has turned in his papers, and Jim Peterson – Ward 3 – not turned in yet. City office has been receipting lots of real estate and personal property taxes the past couple of weeks. Some questions on the increase, but all in all residents are very good about supporting the City’s work. We have thanked them and also taken the opportunity to thank them for keeping their properties in nice condition.

Hen License Annual renewals: Amy Mock @ 838 E. Broadway Street; Scott Rogstad @ 322 W. Center Street; Dawn Wozney @ 121 S. Dover Street. Clerk explained all 3 of these sites are kept in good condition and are following Ordinance regulations. **Motion by P. Syverson to approval all as presented, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Building Permits: Allyn & Sheryl Johnson @ 6060 Sylfest Street for basement finishing & concrete pad outside of home; Terry & La Sandra Wheeler @ 216 S. Urberg Avenue for a ramp entrance to home. Clerk explains a County permit and inspection is required for both permits prior to begin of project. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve with County permits, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Present Vouchers for review and approval: **Motion W. Cartrette to approve the vouchers as presented, 2nd C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: - P. Syverson-Yes, J. Anderson-Yes, T. Wheeler-Yes, W. Cartrette-Yes, C. Ekern-Yes, M. Lisowski-Yes. Motion approved.**

Motion by C. Ekern to move into ‘Closed Session’ per agenda language, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by C. Ekern to reconvene in to ‘Open Session’, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

No action was taken as a result of the ‘closed session’.

Next Council meeting is February 3, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Motion M. Lisowski to adjourn meeting, 2nd W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer