

January 8, 2018 Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair

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 8, 2018. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor A. Knutson; Alderpersons- C. Ekern, W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler (via phone), J. Anderson and P. Syverson, Blair Press and Trempealeau County Times. Absent: T. Robertson (ill).

Public Comment: None

Motion J. Anderson move #8 Public Property & Buildings Committee report up on agenda so Darrel Nelson can leave for work, 2nd same P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Regular Council Meeting 12/4/2017 minutes were reviewed and presented. **Motion J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Correction to add formal approval of the 2018 City budget to the 11/13/2017 meeting minutes: **Motion J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd same C. Ekern/Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Pool Project Update: Park Committee Chairperson W. Cartrette reported on this past month's progress. Burbach Aquatics held 2 meetings which included contractors, City representatives and Burbach Aquatics engineers. At these meetings contractors gave progress and work planned going forward reports, demolition, excavation and construction schedules were discussed. Also discussed were pool layout, type of aggregate sub-base, geotextile filter fabric under pool, concrete reinforcement and pour schedules. Burbach Aquatics is requesting pricing proposals from contractors for the following requested changes: Per State of WI requirements – Add ceramic tile instead of vinyl at bathhouse wall to floor connection and pricing proposal needs to have a format change and Engineer recommendation for a winter drain. These will be reviewed for consideration at a later date. There is concern from contractor, that because of a delayed start due to when utilities were abandoned, they may not be able to hit the target open date of early July 3, 2018 but more likely July 25, 2018. W. Cartrette stated that this delay could not be avoided and understood why this could delay the date. Presented for review and approval was a Request for Payment from Wapasha Construction Co. for work completed as of 12/31/2017 in the amount of \$206,420.75. This request has been reviewed and recommended for payment by Burbach Aquatics, Inc/City Engineers for pool project. **Motion J. Anderson to pay the Request for Payment as presented and use the Pool fund money, 2nd W. Cartrette. Discussion: J. Anderson asked if any of the changes discussed changed the overall budget. W. Cartrette said no, not at this time. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Public Property & Building Committee met with Town of Preston on 12/18/2017: All discussion was related to flood damage replacement materials to the Community Center and consideration of additional upgrades to building at same time as flood damage work. T. Wheeler, Committee Chair reported they decided on floor and ceiling colors and styles. They also decided to recommend to the full Council and Township Board to get estimates to replace 2 service doors (on east and south sides of large room) that are in very bad shape. Clerk Frederixon, reported the asbestos flooring was removed professionally this week, expecting ceiling to be replaced next week and main area floor replaced late February, with bathroom floors replaced early March. Also reported was an approximate \$5,000 shortfall between the insurance coverage and the replacement bids, Committee and Council had previously approved the repairs. Clerk reported that there is concern that there may be a few areas that have developed mold and has contacted the insurance company for a second adjuster to visit to consider additional insurance coverage for the mold. Preston Town Chairperson Darrel Nelson reported: suggestions were made to the Committee that now would be the time to replace other items in the Community Center that are in poor condition, such as rusty bathroom stall partitions, paneling, painting, worn and chipped bathroom stools, sinks and urinals. Town of Preston employee N. Greenwold, obtained one bid for approximately \$45,000 for information purposes. Town of Preston reviewed this information at their meeting tonight and because these additional building upgrades were not budgeted for, decided to do the insurance related flood damage replacement of asbestos removal of flooring, replacement of flooring and ceiling; add to that replacement of 2 service doors and do what is needed to take care of the mold issues.

Motion W. Cartrette to continue with flood damage insured items of asbestos floor removal, new floor and ceiling replacement and add the replacement of 2 service doors and take care of the mold issue @ a 50 % cost share with Town of Preston on amount above insurance coverage, 2nd same J. Anderson. Discussion: J. Anderson clarified with Darrel that these improvements would be at a 50/50 cost share with Township-D. Nelson agreed that is the agreement that is currently in place. Also mold would be taken care of by a professional contractor and there will be no further rental of the center until approved as safe by County Health Department. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Plan Commission Meeting on 12/20/2017: Clerk Frederixon reported: Committee members T. Robertson and J. Arneson were present with B. Hentschel of S.E.H. Engineering. Comprehensive Plan Chapters were reviewed on Issues & Opportunities and Housing. Meetings for further chapter review was set for 1/9, 1/16 and 1/22/2018. All chapters have to be reviewed and a final draft approved by City Council by March 1, 2018. A public hearing will also be held after the plan is complete and approved.

Formal City Credit Card Policy considered: Policy states authorization is required from Clerk/Treasurer or Deputy Clerk/Treasurer prior to using City Credit card and only work related items are allowed to be purchased with receipts given to the Treasurer within 2 days after purchase. **Motion C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd same P. Syverson. Discussion: Recommendation that this form be part of any new hire packet and signed copy kept in Personnel file. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Updated Personnel Policy Handbook with changes approved at 12/4/2017 meeting final review, approval and signed by Council, Mayor and Clerk. No motion required as all items were previously approved. Tax, Finance and Personnel Chairperson J. Anderson had reviewed the draft and feels it does represent the changes already approved and recommends signing of the document.

Hen Licenses: Applications from Scott Rogstad @ 322 W. Center Street, Dawn Wozney @ 121 S. Dover Street and Amy Mock @ 838 E. Broadway Street. All are renewal applications and all are in good standing with the City. **Motion C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd same P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Erickson Excavating Invoice Clarification: Review of part of invoice for removal of previous Webster road that is on Pape property @ the request of Pape Bus Company for the amount of \$1,000. After much discussion that item needs to follow the process of coming to the Council for consideration and approval. **Motion J. Anderson, that because this work was requested by a private party, not approved by the City Council, the \$1,000 Webster road part of invoice will not be paid by the City, 2nd same P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

S.E.H. Reports: Lake Upgrades: Jeff N.-S.E.H. reports that they are coordinating the sediment sampling and once the ice gets thick enough will proceed. Comprehensive Plan updates: Clerk Frederixon reported that Ehlers had a handout for Council review explaining the items they will provide the City for the 'financial' section of your new Comprehensive Plan. Items will include: review of City's current financial position, inventory of capital & operational needs for roads, public safety, human services and administrative depts., inventory of tax base growth from development, 10 year budget forecast and much more. This is all included within the budgeted amount from the \$25,000 State Grant and \$25,000 City match amounts.

Clerk Report: Recognition and thanks to Jynette Noren and family for donation of 2 new safe wooden high chairs to the Community Center as well as work done by Jynette Noren to work with Badger mining to donate a new microwave to the Community Center; FEMA has notified us that the applications completed by the Clerk/Treasurer, for funds to assist with flood damages from the July 20, 2018 flooding in the City have been approved and meetings will be set for further work to finalize the process; Clerk/Treasurer had a Worker's Compensation audit scheduled for 1/9/2018; Alderperson Cartrette expressed thanks to City of remembering her family during the loss of her husband's Mom.

December vouchers presented for review and approval: **Motion W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: Discussion: J. Anderson questioned Summer Rec. voucher-Clerk explained payment was for 2017 approved costs that were invoiced this month and the amount was within budget. T. Wheeler asked final amount of repairs to 1-ton plow truck-Clerk hasn't received bill. Roll Call Vote with all present voting yes. Motion approved.**

Motion W. Cartrette to adjourn to Closed Session per St. Statute 19.85(1) (b) (c) related to Personnel related items, 2nd same J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion J. Anderson to return to open session, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. There was no action taken from the Closed Session.

Aldersperson's - J. Anderson & W. Cartrette had questions from residents, the Mayor allowed for discussion:

- Questions on the need for the 3 hour parking rule? Some residents/business owners feel this is a negative. Examples given: appointments at Heidi's Hair Care can often take longer than 3 hours and also the taverns often have events that would cause customers to stay longer than 3 hours. Verbal ok from Council members to ask the Ordinance Committee to revisit and research neighboring cities on this topic.
- W. Cartrette was reminded by residents that our 'Welcome to Blair' sign near the Hwy 95 Bridge is in serious need of repair. Clerk/Treasurer Frederixon concurred, she has been reminded of that also. Verbal ok from Council members to seek an estimate to have sign upgraded similar to the others.

Motion C. Ekern to adjourn, 2nd same J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Susan Frederixon, City Clerk