

**Special Council Meeting minutes, November 30, 2015 at 7 p.m.**

Mayor Ardell Knutson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council attending: P. Syverson, C. Ekern, W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler, T. Robertson, J. Anderson, and S. Frederixon Clerk-Treasurer.

**Motion by T. Wheeler to amend agenda to include: Review Ordinance 48.14 2015 Annexation II language change/Possible action and TID 7 Residential Development confirmation of excavating procedure, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Open Meeting Law Requirements met:** posted more than 24 in advance & in three public places.

**Report on Personnel Committee Meetings:** J. Anderson reported on three budget meetings held on Nov. 3, 4, and 5, 2015. All employees to receive a 2% raise, with additional adjustments made for three positions to try to get within an 8% area average.

**Motion by W. Cartrette to open budget hearing, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion. Ayes – 6, Nays-0.**

**Budget Discussion:** Lee Henschel had a question about a sheet that was presented at Town of Preston meeting; stating that the City of Blair had a decrease in residential net new construction. It was explained that the decrease was possibly due to a house being removed from the City. The council asked that our assessor, Eric Kleven come to speak on the matter of the value of property. Discussion on Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Appeal and how it affects the City's taxes.

**Motion by J. Anderson to take 50% out of Fire Department Capital Improvement Project and 50% out of Street Projects CIP, if needed, to make up for the shortfall created by the DOR, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion by J. Anderson to increase wages by 2%, with additional adjustments for three positions – all contingent on an upcoming closed session discussion, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Motion by T. Robertson to close budget hearing, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays -0.**

**Motion by P. Syverson to adopt the 2016 proposed budget, with the amendments made and contingencies discussed, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Report on Personnel Meeting:** J. Anderson reported on meetings held on November 9, 12, and 18, 2015. Interviews and a final decision on the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer position took place. The committee recommended Debi Fremstad. **Motion by W. Cartrette to hire Debi Fremstad as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer @ \$15.25 per hour, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Building Permits:** J. Knutson @ Lot #1 in Wildcat Residential Development – new duplex; T. & R. Wagner @ 818 E. Taft St. – add bedrooms to basement. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve Knutson permit, contingent to County permit, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion by W. Cartrette to approve Wagner permit, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Amended Item-Review ordinance 48.14 2015 Annexation II language/Possible action.** Attorney Robertson recommended we add language relating to WI State statutes that the City pay the annual taxes to Town of Preston, for five years on annexed property. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve language addition, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Amended Item-TID 7 Residential Development confirmation of excavating procedure.** The Blair Industrial Development Corporation asked if excavation work on the project, previously approved to have Erickson Excavating do this preliminary work, can be started now to help speed up the building process in the spring. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve the start of excavating, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn, seconded by T. Wheeler, Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

---

Susan Frederixon, Clerk-Treasurer