

December 4, 2017 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 December 4, 2017. 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, J. Anderson and T. Robertson (7:05), Blair Press and Trempealeau County Times. Absent: P. Syverson

Motion W. Cartrette to amend the agenda to include Hegg Construction request to exceed the road agreement with Source Energy/former Preferred Sands, maximum truck haul loads during the month of December 2017 and to place that as number 5.5 on the agenda, 2nd same J. Anderson. Discussion: none.

Vote: Yes 4, No 0. Motion approved.

Public Comment: None

Regular Council Meeting 11/13/2017 minutes were reviewed and presented. **Motion J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd same T. Wheeler. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 4, No 0. Motion approved.**

Gunderson Clinic External Affairs Program representative, Laura Olson, shared Gunderson Health Systems vision to enhance the health and well-being of the communities' they serve by establishing solid relationships with the governing bodies and being helpful to those communities however they can. One of the largest employers in area and goal to offer quality health care as close to home as possible. Often help with local health related projects that promote health and well-being. Council talked about the pool project which promotes healthy swimming activities and Laura offered to reinvestigate our request for funds to support that project and get back to us. Clerk Frederixon offered to send the City Comprehensive Plan S.W.O.T. analysis information what was done recently and to regular meeting dates and times for Council and Chamber meetings.

Source Energy/SPW C.U.P. amendment to modify and supplement Section 3.6(b) of the Agreement to begin a new \$100,000 minimum royalty payment for a period of 10 years, to commence January 1, 2018. This was considered by Source Energy, in an effort to help the City make the Municipal Pool project a reality, since there was a \$600,000 + shortfall in funds raised for the project at this time. The City would be able to consider that income to repay the debt incurred to the City related to the new pool. **Motion J. Anderson to approve the amendment as presented, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: T. Robertson questioned, this seems to be something for nothing, are there any strings attached? Per Source Energy- No strings. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. Thank you from Council and round of applause for such a wonderful contribution to the City.**

Source Energy/formally Preferred Sands road agreement renewal was presented. Per Source Energy representative the only thing changed were the dates and company name. After review...**Motion W. Cartrette to approve contingent on approval by Township, 2nd same by T. Wheeler. Discussion: T. Robertson verified only items changed were company name and date to extend to 12/31/2018. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Hegg Construction requested approval to haul more than the road agreement amount of 10 loads per day, out of the Source Energy (previously Preferred Sands) site during the month of December. They have a chance to collect good fill that would benefit future projects in the area, but would need to haul up to 25 loads a day from the mine to a location on Schansberg road a few miles away. **Motion C. Ekern to approve contingent on Townships approval and not to exceed the 12/31/2017 date, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

S.E.H. Reports: Lake Upgrades: Next step, since DNR is requiring sediment sampling, is for us to put together a plan/agreement to include estimated cost of engineering, sub-contractors, lab analysis(significant amount of this agreement), and actual sampling work to remove approximately 170,000 cubic yards of sediment. The process should be 1 long day of sampling, and approximately a 2 week turn around for results. This sample information is needed to develop a dredging plan. Decisions and cost will be highly dependent on what type of material the sediment is; which will determine where it can be disposed of and effect greatly the cost of the project. S.E.H. has an agreement, written to the DNR requirements, for Lake Henry Sediment Sampling and Analyzing with estimated cost of \$12,500, for Council review and action tonight. **Motion J. Anderson to approve agreement as presented with payment being made from CIP Lake fund, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: W. Cartrette asked about possible grants for this project. S.E.H. will check with Brad H., but typically not many grants for dredging, maybe for habitat restoration, etc. Start dates will depend on the ice strength**

as the sampling equipment is very heavy. T. Robertson questioned amount of engineering hours within this Agreement, S.E.H. estimated 50 hours which includes 24 hours in the field related to the sampling, but this may change if DNR requires additional items and weather that can affect sampling. **Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Formation of a Park/Lake Council-Community Lake Committee: Discussion centered on that being the way to go. Plans to have the City Park Committee take leadership and partner with Sportsman Club, residents and area interested individuals similar to the way the Park/Pool Committee worked and was very successful to keep things moving along and organized. **Motion T. Robertson to move formation of a Park/Lake Restoration Committee to the Park Committee, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Consider 2018/2019 Election Worker approval. Election workers are J. Helstad, C. Solberg, J. Romanowski, T. Wheeler, G. Olson, D. Fremstad, L. Loken, D. Dale and S. Frederixon. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2nd same T. Robertson. Discussion: none. Vote Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Reports:

Tax, Finance & Personnel Committee meeting 11/29/17 J. Anderson/Committee Chairperson reported, the Committee reviewed the current Personnel Policies and proposed changes to the following areas: Anniversary date for full & part-time employees(language clean-up); Termination of employment dismissal section(clearly identifying person of authority) if a violation would occur; removing the “verbal warning” part of that section to leave only written warnings; making changes to the number of offenses allowed and raising the length of time warning will be kept in employee files from 5-7 years. Hours of Work section had a language clean-up related to “on call” hours; Much discussion was heard on possibly changes to allow for a more competitive vacation policy for new hires, currently an employee has no vacation until after 1 year; Uniform section-language clean up as now uniforms are provided by City, with steel toed footwear section remaining. **Motion T. Robertson to approve all items presented except vacation topic; which I would refer back to Personnel Committee for further review, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Pool Project Update: Park Committee Chairperson W. Cartrette reported Hegg Contractors has completed the demolition of the old pool and will be donating their work to the City. Wapasha Construction has installed a security fence around the site. Excavation has begun. BAI (Burbach Aquatics Inc.) will be taking pictures of the progress during the project. The first progress meeting was held the 1st week of December, with BAI, contractors and J. Nyen, Park Superintendent attending. Progress meetings will be frequent throughout the project. Independence Ready Mix had indicated a while back, possibly doing some sort of donation related to concrete when the project gets to that point and BAI will reach out to them for more information.

Equipment Committee Meeting 12-4-17. C. Ekern reported 6 quotes, from area dealers, for a new dually 1-ton plow truck with box, plow and tool box were reviewed for a 2nd time. The Committee is recommending for Council the quote received from Rudy’s Gunderson Whitehall dealership, to purchase a 2018 Chevy 350 truck with Crysteel Box, Western Plow & tool box @ the price of \$46,811.00. Delivery for this vehicle is estimated at a 2 month timeline. The purchase would be made from Equipment Capital Improvement fund. **Motion J. Anderson to accept the Committee recommendation as presented, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: Request for Equipment Committee work to develop a ‘preventive maintenance’ program for City Equipment. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Consider BIDS for sale of Plow Truck and Trailer: 1998 Int. diesel plow truck-2 bids received. 1- M. Ressel for \$1,600.00. 2- J. Eckel for \$4,100. **Motion W. Cartrette to accept the high bid from J. Eckel of \$4,100, 2nd same T. Wheeler. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** Flatbed Trailer-1 bid received. J. Greenwold bid \$28.00. **Motion W. Cartrette to accept bid received of \$28, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: trailer is in very poor condition. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Consider formation of Police & Fire Commission: A. Robertson reported that this type of Committee could be useful to assist with personnel type issues that might come up within our Police and/or Fire Departments. At this point, due to State Statutes the City Council is not able to directly deal with these types of issues at that level. Formation of this type of Commission would be done by Ordinance development and approval. **Motion W. Cartrette to send this to our Police/Ordinance Committee to review, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: J. Anderson-would this help make any issues like this come to more timely resolutions? A. Robertson-certainly more likely. T. Robertson requesting to reach out to Town of Preston to get a City/Township Fire Board meeting scheduled-Clerk will check. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Eagle Scout structure near new pool demolition site was able to be safely moved. Clerk reached out to Source Energy and Hi Crush mines for assistance. Both immediately offered engineering, equipment and manpower assistance. Hi Crush was able to get there on the earliest date and the structure has been moved safely. They have also offered to assist when the time comes to re-install it. Hi Crush would accept no payment for this help. Local Eagle Scout Grant Wifcraft and family were very pleased.

Hen License Renewals: None were presented at this time, current license expires 12/31/2017.

Class B Liquor License Application-Blair Sportsman Club Ice Fishing Contest on 1/13/2018: **Motion C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Building Permit: None submitted.

Clerk report: thank you to Jynette Noren for upgrades to our Community Center. Jynette and family have donated coat hangers and are working on donations to be able to provide new sturdy wooden stackable high chairs and microwave to the center. City office has sent all required 2017 real estate tax information to the County Treasurer and is expecting those to go out the 3rd week of December. Clerk request to Xcel energy for a pool donation achieved a \$1,000 donation. Public Works staff did a super job getting beautiful Christmas lights up safely again this year...big help to have Stetzer Electric allow use of lift. Confirmation that the trees approved for Hi-Crush berm were the 4x6 foot size. Thank you to City Council and City residents from the City employees for our 2018 wage increase and benefits and to the Council for the good and sometimes difficult job they did during 2017.

November Vouchers were presented for review: **Motion W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2nd same C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll call vote taken-5 yes votes-P. Syverson was absent. Motion approved.**

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

Motion C. Ekern to return to open session, 2nd same W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

There was no action taken from the Closed Session.

Motion J. Anderson to adjourn, 2nd same T. Robertson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0.

Susan Frederixon, City Clerk