

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, T. Wheeler, J. Tranberg, J. Anderson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney-Mark Radcliffe, TCT-Andrew Dannehy, T. Armitage, B. Shefelbine, D. Quarne, J. Stenberg, D. Bach, L. Halverson, D. Gerber, J. Behling, J. Greenwold, A. Graff, B. Jahr, K. Johnson and Clerk/Treasurer-D. Fremstad.

Public Comment: none.

Motion by D. Stephenson to approve 2/6/2023 council minutes, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to accept and place on file the minutes from the 2/22/2023 Streets, Lights, & Equipment meeting, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Streets, Lights, & Equipment meeting-J. Tranberg. LRIP grant needs to be done by June 30, 2023. A double-chip seal is being proposed for Taft Street. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve LRIP grant money to be used for Taft St based on DOT acceptance of project, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion-DS where is money coming from? CIP street outlay. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.** City parking lot needs replacing; it is in bad shape. Equipment needs were discussed: International needs a radiator, fittings for hydraulics, box needs sandblasting and painting; 1-ton needs cutting edges; lawnmower trade-in; welder; and skid steer rental. Numbers and quotes are needed. The committee would like the current ordinance for alternate side parking changed to a snow emergency ordinance. A snow emergency would be declared and all vehicles would have to be off the street. The police chief would like to see some form of mass communication system put in place to let residents know. This could be done through texts and emails. **Motion by C. Ekern to send to ordinance committee to work with attorney on a draft, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Blair-Taylor School referendum-Lynn Halverson. A referendum informational packet was handed out and gone through. This is a non-recurring 3 year referendum for \$1.5 million that will go toward maintaining current operations, staff retention and attraction, and rebuilding the school's fund balance.

Broadway/Pearl project effects on Fire Station-Travis Armitage. Aprons for the fire station have been put in to the project bid, thank you. Flood retention is needed for the Community Center. If concrete were put on West side for this, it would also aid in creating parking spaces there. Please consider putting this into the project as well. Also, how is the Fire Dept suppose to operate during this project? Simmons may be able to empty out part of a gym from the old school They would need to be paid for this.

Amendment to Barnyard Tavern liquor license premise-Attorney Radcliffe. The Barnyard Tavern has provided a map that is legally acceptable to approve this change. **Motion by J. Tranberg to**

allow premise amendment to the Barnyard Tavern at 212 W Broadway, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Blair-Preston Community Center cleaning. The Town of Preston has advertised for this and has gotten 1 response. The TNL Cleaning Service proposal is going to be looked at the March Town of Preston meeting. The City would split this cost. **Motion by C. Ekern to go with TNL Cleaning Service proposal, contingent on the Town of Preston approving, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes, D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes. Motion carried.**

Mill Road lift station repair-J. Greenwold. No more adjusting can be done with this pump, it is not priming and is slowing down. The impeller is very worn. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve repairs to the Mill Rd lift station, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: DS-when could they start? Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Road ban exemption for Feyen's Pumping Service. This would affect Schansberg, Snake, Helmers, River Road, and Trump Roads. This letter was reviewed by the City attorney and the road was assessed by the Street manager. Pictures were sent to I-pads. Road bans will go into effect soon. **Motion by D. Stephenson to not permit Feyen or any other heavy trucks on City roads during the road bans, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0.**

Source Energy Road agreement. There is no current road agreement with Source Energy. If the City of Blair roads are damaged or in poor shape, they can be shut down. The roads need to be monitored within the municipality and action taken when needed.

Motion by C. Ekern that the Common Council, pursuant to Wis. Sta. 19.85(1)(e), may convene in closed session to deliberate the request from Smart Sand to reduce their annual royalty payment for competitive and/or bargaining reasons, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. Attorney John Behling updated the council that David Bach is now in charge of the Blair facility. **Motion by D. Stephenson to reconvene in open session for possible action on the Smart Sand request to reduce their annual royalty payment, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.** No action taken from closed session.

Resolution 2023-3-6-1 declares official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing through the State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund-Safe Drinking Water Loan program. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve Resolution 2023-3-6-1, 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.**

Resolution 2023-3-6-2 declares official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing through the State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund-Clean Water Fund Loan program. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve Resolution 2023-3-6-2, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.**

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GEC building report given for January 2023.

Park & Rec Youth Sports Board-J. Anderson. There are 5 voting members to the Board, along with City of Blair representative-Jill Anderson and Village of Taylor representative-Justin Beaman. The goal is for both entities to give up the park & rec fund to this board. The board becomes independent with a financial contribution from City and Village.

Motion by C. Ekern to pay the bills, 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.

Next meeting April 3, 2023.

The City office will be closed on Friday, March 10, 2023.

Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn at 8:23 pm, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debi Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer