

Public Hearing & Common Council Meeting minutes, April 4, 2024

Mayor Rawson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:25 pm

The ordinance changes were reviewed for Chapter 46: Ch.46.04(7)(B)(2) amend to (a) on an upper level (non-street level) (b) on the street level if in use as an apartment as of January 1, 2020; Ch 46.09(1)(F) Landscaping and Decorative Uses. Property owners shall not allow grass and lawns to exceed eight inches (8”) in height, nor shall noxious and other weeds be allowed to accumulate. Failure to comply with this restriction shall be treated as a public nuisance, subject to the applicable sections of Chapter 18 of City of Blair Code of Ordinances.; Ch 46.09(1)(I) shall be repealed entirely and subsections (J) and (K) thereafter shall be renumbered/changed to (I) Retaining Walls and (J) Wells respectively; Ch 46.12 (5)(A)and(B) shall be amended to state (A) Enforcement of this ordinance is vested in the Zoning Administrator, the Police Department, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the appropriate standing committee of the City council. (B) The Zoning Administrator and/or Police Department is entitled to pursue all formal remedies as permitted by these ordinances, as well as those available in the applicable sections of the Wisconsin Statutes, in addition, The Zoning Administrator and/or Police Department is/are encouraged, although not required, to pursue informal remedies, which do not involve formal sanctions.

Mayor called 3 times for public comments. There were none.

Motion by C. Ekern to close public hearing, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Rawson called the Common Council meeting to order at 6:27 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: A. Stevens, J. Tranberg, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney Mark Radcliffe, Andrew Dannehy-TCT, Mike Ressel, Nathan Stobb-Source, Attorney Chris Gierhart-Source, Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Agenda was posted on 4/2/2024 at City Hall, Post Office, Waumandee Bank, & City website.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve agenda, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none.

Motion by D. Stephenson to approve March 4, 2024 Common Council and March 13, 2024 Special Council minutes, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson to accept minutes from Tax, Finance, & Personnel meetings held on 3/6/2024 and 4/1/2024 and place on file, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Source Energy annexation petition: Attorney Radcliffe stated that the legal description for the annexation had been changed. There needs to be a 2/3 vote to pass the annexation. The city would

cover the township's loss of their tax base for 5 years. Source is willing to help with the road that would be annexed in by contributing \$10,000/year for 5 years. Need a motion to draft an ordinance to move forward. **Motion by C. Ekern to have Attorney Radcliffe draft an annexation ordinance, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: A. Stevens-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, P. Syverson-no, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-no. Motion carried.**

Lake Henry dredging liability letter: Attorney Radcliffe is fine with the agreement. The city should have an Environmental study done on the land. D. Stephenson stated that would be done. J. Tranberg asked if everything coming out of the lake would fit on this property? D. Stephenson said it would. **Motion by J. Tranberg to approve the License Access and Waiver of Liability Agreement between the City of Blair and Source, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Ressel property at 302 N Gilbert St: Mike Ressel is wanting to put a car lot on the north side of the property and would need some of the City of Blair's property to do this. The surveyor found that the deed stated that the land was to be used for park use only and referred that matter to Attorney Radcliffe. You have 2 options: contact DOT and DOA and release the land or you can go forward with transaction and owner of property may have to give the property back. Mike Ressel would like to go through the process and contact DOT and DOA but would like to move forward with building his parking lot. Mike Ressel would pay for the price of having his property surveyed. **Motion by J. Tranberg to proceed with Attorney Radcliffe contacting the DOT and DOA regarding the "bass pond" property, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Blair-Preston Fire Department temporary class b liquor license and road closure for May 11, 2024. **Motion by J. Tranberg to approve liquor license and road closure for Blair-Preston Fire Department for May 11, 2024, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

2023 DNR Consumer Confidence Report: This yearly report gets posted in the newspaper and shows the water quality for the City of Blair. **Motion by A. Stevens to approve the CCR for publication, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Personnel Policy Changes: The following changes were made to section XVI regarding personal vehicle use: striking #5 & #6, for city vehicle in #7 and adding reference XII B. 3 to #1. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve personnel policy changes, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Pool Director hire: Tax, Finance, & Personnel recommends Allie Johnson for the position. She has pool and scheduling experience, recommending \$19/hour. **Motion by J. Tranberg to hire Allie Johnson as Pool Director for \$19/hour, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: D.**

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Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.

July 3, 2024 Fireworks Over Blair temporary street closure: same closure as last year and would need no-parking signs for Highway 95. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve the temporary street closure for July 3rd, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Ordinance changes: **Motion by C. Ekern to approve ordinance changes discussed at the Public Hearing, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Trempealeau County Music Series: Jack Heigh is organizing a music series and would like our community to participate. The City is in charge of finding and paying for the band. C. Ekern will contact Dave Mattison. J. Tranberg will reach out to some people. **Motion by A. Stevens to pursue the music series by finding a band and coming back with prices for the May meeting, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: A. Stevens-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.**

Spring Clean Up: Wednesday, April 17th from 3-6pm and Saturday, April 20th from 9am-noon.

Motion by D. Stephenson to pay the bills R186, 61430-61513, EBC3-4, V1068-1082, WI 246-247,BT2-2024, eftps 030824 & 032224, Def Comp 180-181, TID fee 2024, 2nd by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by A. Stevens to adjourn at 7:05 pm, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debra Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer