

Common Council Meeting minutes, February 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: T. Wheeler, J. Tranberg, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney-Mark Radcliffe, TCT-Benjamin Pierce, SEH- Brea Grace, SEH-Crystal Raleigh, SEH-Charles Pearman, Water/Sewer Manager-Joshua Greenwold, David Donnelly, Tri-City Sanitation-Dave Pientok, Smart Sands-Dan Gerber, Attorney-John Behling, Mike Ressel, Dwight Frederixon, Park Manager-Brian Jahr, Nate Dahl, and Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Public Comment: none.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve 1/5/2023 council minutes, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson to accept and place on file the minutes from the 1/9/2023 Public Property & Buildings meeting, the 1/12/23 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meeting and the 1/31/2023 Joint Park & Rec meeting, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

WDNR Safe Drinking Water loan application – Brea Grace, SEH Community Planner. The water utility replacement on the Broadway and Pearl Street project can be funded with this low interest rate loan. The current rate is 2.145%. Blair may be eligible for 25% principal forgiveness on the water portion of the project. Application is due June 30, 2023. The plans and specs have to be submitted before this date. The WDNR Clean Water Fund loan application would cover sanitary sewer and storm sewer (if there is a reduction in total suspended solids) replacement on the Broadway and Pearl Street project. Application is due September 30, 2023. These loans are used in combination with the CDBG monies that have already been awarded. Commitment needs to be made before bids go out to fulfill federal requirements. Each loan application through SEH would be \$28,000 with no guarantee of the loan being approved. **Motion by J. Anderson accept SEH agreement for WDNR SDW loan application, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried. Motion by P. Syverson to accept SEH agreement for WDNR CWF loan application, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.**

Geotechnical Exploration Contract with PSI – Crystal Raleigh, SEH Project Manager. PSI will do soil borings on the Broadway and Pearl project. This is needed for contractors to know what kinds of soil is under the streets. The project design will be done in March, with bidding in April, awarding at May council meeting, and pre-construction conference in June. We need to start in July at the latest. The costs have had to be revised since 2021 and have increased by about 40% for this project. SEH still needs cemetery plat for Rest Haven and later on we will need to put together a mailing for the public residents along the project's streets. There will also be a formal public meeting after the bidding is awarded. **Motion by C. Ekern to go with PSI's bid for soil**

boring, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes, D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes. Motion carried.

Wildcat Development Addition – Dwight Frederixon. There is 1 person who would like to purchase 5 lots and is not sure if all housing would be done withing the 18-month period for reimbursement; asking for some leeway on this. Guarantee of 1 duplex per year. Attorney Radcliffe is working on document for BIDCO so that someone can't buy these lots and then turn around and sell them for profit. There are 13 lots left in the addition. **Motion by J. Tranberg to extend build time line to 5 occupancy permits in 4 years' time and then reimburse lot money as each occupancy permit comes in. These lots can't be resold. 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

CUP on Quarne & Ressel land on Gilbert Street – Mike Ressel. Requesting a 3 to 6 month extension on the permit. **Motion by J. Tranberg to extend Conditional Use Permit for 6 months, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Smart Sand request to reduce royalty payment – Attorney John Behling and Dan Gerber, VP of Operations. After acquiring Hi Crush, it was discovered that many parts were missing. Plant manager hired and starting end of February. The site is very challenging, we will almost double what we paid for it to get it up and going. The royalty payments are quite steep and we are asking the city for a reduction. Startup would come in May. **Motion by D. Stephenson to enter into closed session pursuant to Wis State Statute 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate the request from Smart Sand to reduce their annual royalty payment for competitive and/or bargaining reasons, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by D. Stephenson to reconvene into open session, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. No action taken from closed session.

Tri-City Sanitation switch from garbage bags to bins – Dave Pientok. Tri-City owns the bins, the residents pay for garbage collection. Tri-City bills monthly and the city bills quarterly for water-sewer bills, start July 1? Will this affect the levy limit? Would like to eliminate bags completely. Attorney Radcliffe will draft a letter to be sent to mobile home and commercial accounts regarding this action. **Motion to accept Tri-City contract agreement for garbage bins contingent on levy limit not being affected, the attorney approving the contract, and the bins being provided for residential (single & duplex) properties, not commercial or mobile homes, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Discussion-none. Motion carried.** The contract will have to be gone over with Debi, Dave, and the attorney.

Friendship First Foundation – Class B temporary liquor license for February 10-12, 2023 at 419 S Urberg Avenue for theatre production. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve license, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Motion by C. Ekern to open liquor license hearing for public comment on Wildcat Saloon, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried. Any public comments? Dave Donnelly asked about surrendering his alcohol license. Attorney Radcliffe stated that to move forward with this transfer of license at this address, the current licensee would have to surrender or amend his license according to the Wis Statute. There can't be 2 liquor licenses at 1 location. Dave stated that suite 3 is what Lisa is wanting to rent out and Suite 2 or 1 is what he wants to keep. Any other public comments? None.

Motion by J. Tranberg to close liquor license public hearing, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Wildcat Saloon – Lisa Blaken application for transfer of retail Class B alcohol license from 236 W Broadway St to 212 W Broadway St. **Motion by J. Tranberg to grant transfer of Wildcat Saloon contingent upon current licensee either surrendering his license or amending premise of current license so as not to violate Wis State Statute 125.32, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Renumbering of City Ordinances – Attorney Radcliffe. **Motion by C. Ekern to renumber ordinances as provided by the Attorney, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: P. Syverson-so it was in the 46 to 64 range? Yes, we had two ordinances that were numbered 52 and that has now been fixed. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

ARP 2nd installment allocation of funds: There were 2 installments of \$70,000 from the ARP money. The 1st installment was spent on Water Treatment upgrades. **Motion by C. Ekern for the 2nd installment of ARP funds to be spent on Water Treatment Plant upgrades, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Donation of money off a pool pass-J. Anderson. The Blair-Taylor elementary school is putting together a coupon book for fundraising and was wondering if the City would donate. It is the City of Blair's policy not to give out donations, as it is taxpayer money.

Water Treatment Plant possible fluoride discontinuation. DNR deadline of May as to whether the City of Blair provides fluoride to its residents. The State of Wisconsin does not mandate fluoridation. Councils can begin or discontinue fluoridation at their own discretion. To continue with fluoride, we would have to build a room inside the chemical room to house the fluoride. The 2 quotes received for that project were both around \$4700. **Motion by P. Syverson to discontinue fluoride at the Water Treatment Plant, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Server License Applications: Austin Knopps, Tasha Walentin, and Tyler Palkowski. **Motion J. Tranberg to approve all server license applications, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

GEC building report given for 2022.

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Cheese Fest possibly serving food out of Community Center – informational only. The Fest is looking to see if it is even a possibility. They would cover all costs; just want the Council to be aware of what is being discussed.

LRIP grant money to go to N Gilbert Street project – informational only.

Joint Park & Rec Committee recommendations-J. Anderson. Jeremy Tranberg has resigned his Park & Rec position. Committee recommends forming a Youth Sports Board – 1 representative from the City of Blair Park Committee, 1 representative from the Village of Taylor Park Committee, and 5 community members at large. By-laws would have to be formed. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve forming a Blair-Taylor Park & Rec Youth Sports Board, with a Park & Rec representative from each community on the board, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.** The Committee also recommends compensating Sara Capouch \$2000 for her work with the program. J. Tranberg did not take any money while the director, so that money is still in the budget. **Motion by C. Ekern to compensate Sara Capouch \$2000 for work already done with the Park & Rec, \$1000 from City of Blair, \$1000 from the Village of Taylor, contingent upon the Village of Taylor approving also, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.**

Tax, Finance, & Personnel Committee recommendations-J. Anderson. Leave OT as is on personnel policy. Follow the City's Green River Ordinance for the Broadway Bar & Grill.

Motion by J. Anderson pursuant to Wis. Stat. 1985(1)(c), will convene in closed session to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility regarding Tim Steven's probation, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to reconvene to open session, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to extend probation period for Tim Stevens out to April 3, 2023, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson to pay the bills, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Next meeting March 6, 2023.

Motion by D. Stephenson to adjourn at 9:21 pm, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debi Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer