

Common Council Meeting minutes, July 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: A. Stevens, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney-Mark Radcliffe, Trempealeau County Times-Andrew Dannehy, Jolene Ekern, Mary Oldendorf, Jay Betker, Dave Mattison, Brian Stenberg, Julie Wheeler, Vernon Back, Gwen Kidd, Travis Armitage, Tim Stevens, Andy Graff, Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Public Comment: Paul Syverson stated there had been a citizen that called the police department about a pail of waste oil sitting on the curb next to the storm drain. Nothing was done about it. That citizen called city hall and Andy Graff went and removed the oil. Thank you to Andy. Mary Oldendorf stated that the lion water fountain by the large shelter was in bad shape and she would like to put a bench in memory of Bob Tenneson there.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve June 5, 2023 council minutes, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: D. Stephenson-wanted clarification on sewer rate increase and sewer meter increase. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Blair Cheese Festival and the Broadway/Pearl project: D. Stephenson stated that he believed this matter to be settled at the May 10, 2023 Council meeting. The truck & tractor pull was a go. Gwen Kidd's concern was the raised manholes and valves. The contractor has told the city that the manholes and main valves would be buried and then raised. Vernon Back stated that a 4-foot ramp approach on both sides of the bridge was not enough; if a tractor hooked that ramp, the city would be liable. Attorney Radcliffe said the city would need a waiver from Cheese Fest for potential damage and accidents and that each participant should sign a waiver to pull. Mary Oldendorf informed the Council that the Cheese Festival has liability insurance. Dennis Stephenson asked if a waiver should be signed every year if there is a potential to damage our roads. Travis Armitage suggested that instead of just the binder, maybe the final road could be put down from Pearl to the bridge. Dennis Stephenson stated he did not want too many changes, didn't want to have to renegotiate the contract. After much discussion a 15-foot ramp approach on both sides of the bridge seemed to be the general consensus. **Motion by D. Stephenson to agree to allow the Cheese Fest to have the truck & tractor pull for 2023, subject to them signing a waiver and fixing any damages, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: J. Anderson-with a 15-foot ramp approach to the bridge? D. Stephenson-yes. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.** Dave Mattison asked if the parade was still a go. Yes. Travis Armitage stated that the barriers for the pull could be left in place all weekend for safety.

Daveed LLC has now submitted a complete liquor license application and the attorney has approved the application. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve the Daveed liquor license, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Server license for approval: Suzanne Bradley, Shawn Brophy, Amber Chapel, Angel Christenson, Serenity Hall, Katlin Hoem, Teresa Kikilas. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve all server applications, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Ehler's Phase 1 Water Rate Study results: Brian Roemer gave an in-depth virtual presentation on the results of the study. He is suggesting a rate adjustment implementation to match asset service- a two-step rate adjustment not two rate cases to be submitted to the PSC. The PSC makes the final decision and this takes time, looking at the end of 2024 for an answer from the PSC. This recommendation will be filed with the PSC by the end of July if the city is in agreement. The City agreed to proceed with the proposal and submit the application.

Ehler's Safe Drinking Water Fund Loan contract. **Motion by P. Syverson to accept Ehler's proposal for help with the SDWF loan for \$4500, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, Andy Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

141 Mill Road zoning violation: Attorney Radcliffe stated that an injunction will have to be filed with the circuit court.

Detours during the Pearl/Broadway project: There are to be NO semis or ATV/UTV's driving through the park. When Broadway is closed from Pearl to Main, ATV/UTV's should travel on Main to 2nd Street to Dover, cross Broadway and travel through the alley by the Broadway Bar & Grill to the city parking lot and then onto Center Street. When Broadway is closed from Main to Park Rd, ATV/UTV's should go around Hillcrest to Pearl, then 2nd to Dover, cross Broadway and travel through the alley by the Broadway Bar & Grill to the city parking lot and then to Center St. **Motion by D. Stephenson to have city make a detour map during the Broadway/Pearl project for ATV/UTV's using the city streets off Broadway to Main to 2nd to Dover, across Broadway to alley, through city parking lot to Center, 2nd C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Lion fountain in park: The fountain does not work and is in bad shape. **Motion by A. Stevens to eliminate lion fountain all together, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Motion by C. Ekern to place lion on the Blair Online Auction site, 2nd by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Water Treatment Plant cell media: The 5 filter cells at the WTP have been looked at by a professional. All are in need of media. This is to be expected over time due to the natural backwashing procedure. The city will get quotes to have more media distributed in each cell.

Motion by C. Ekern to pay the bills, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.

Next Common Council Meeting, August 7, 2023

Motion by D. Stephenson to adjourn at 7:55 pm, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.