

Common Council Meeting minutes, November 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. Tranberg, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney Mark Radcliffe, Andrew Dannehy-TCT, Charles Pearman-SEH, Owen Berg, Jay Vehrenkamp, Erika Anderson, Mike Ressel, Andy Graff, Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Agenda was posted on 11/2/23 at City Hall, Post Office, Waumandee Bank, & City website.

Motion by J. Anderson to approve agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none.

**Motion by J. Tranberg to approve October 2, 2023 council minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Motion by P. Syverson to place on file the minutes for the 9/26/2023, 9/27/2023, 10/3/2023, 10/4/2023, 10/11/2023, and 11/1/2023 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meetings and the 10/10/2023 Business & Economic Development meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Street closure for Holiday Parade on December 2, 2023. Jay Vehrenkamp spoke about having an ugly sweater 5K WALK/run. A waiver would be signed by all participants and the fee charged would go to a community need. Erika Anderson would like the day to be a Norwegian Christmas in Blair. There would be activities at the Community Center after the run with a lighted Community Christmas tree and live reindeer. Erika asked if the fee for using the Center could be waived for the event. Jeremy Tranberg volunteered to cover the fee for the event that day. She also asked that the City put up the lights on the tree and then dispose of the tree. Most businesses in Blair will be having some sort of activity or food for sale at their establishment. The event is also asking for a street closure. Mayor Rawson expressed that there was to be no alcohol thrown out at the parade.

**Motion by A. Stevens to approve the street closure on Broadway, from Dover to Pearl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Payment Application #3 for Broadway/Pearl project – Charles Pearman, SEH. Charles stated that this work was from August 16 to October 16. Recommending payment of \$1,530,527.02. A-1 would like to have a cold weather waiver change order signed. Attorney Radcliffe stated that there should be no change order. This is on A-1 Contracting; not the City. The sidewalks will not be done this year. **Motion by J. Anderson to pay application #3, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by J. Tranberg to go back to public comment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.** Owen Berg has checked with land records regarding easements with his property. He has public people come through his private property. This will have to go to a Streets, Lights, & Equipment Committee meeting.

**Motion by J. Tranberg to approve a temporary liquor license for the Ice Fishing Contest on January 6, 2024 by the Blair Sportsmen’s Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Motion by C. Ekern to open public hearing for the 2024 budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: : D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.** J. Anderson-Chair to the Tax, Finance, Personnel Committee reviewed the proposed budget. Revenue increases: camping fees, pool fees, and shelter fees. Health insurance increased 16%. The fire department/community center share is now 49.9% for the City of Blair and 50.1% for the Town of Preston. Once again, we did raises first as our employees are our most valuable resource. The raises are based on performance and contingent upon certifications being passed. The average raise was 6.1% across the board. The Blair-Taylor Youth Association will receive \$5000, the police want a second squad car for \$42,000, lots of road projects (Tappen, Taft, city parking lot, sand blasting plow truck), 2-way radios for trucks, 2 new shelter refrigerators, and a shaded building for the pool. Capital Improvements include: \$9000 for police squad, \$15,000 for Fire Department, \$100,000 for Street Machinery, \$58,000 for Street Projects, and \$10,541 for Contingency. **Motion by C. Ekern to close public hearing for 2024 budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by J. Tranberg to approve the 2024 City of Blair budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

The Tax, Finance, & Personnel Committee has been asked by an employee to look into a Health Insurance Stipend for those employees who don’t take the insurance from the City. They would like to be paid for not taking the City’s insurance. The council verbally agreed to move forward and investigate a health insurance stipend.

Tri-City Sanitation garbage bin contract. Attorney Radcliffe stated an ordinance needed to be put in place for garbage collection and he has drafted one for you to look at. The Council needs to define the area that will be affected. Single family residence, duplexes, tri-plexes, and 4-plexes will be provided garbage bins. We will provide a map to Tri-City of where within the City they need to pick up. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Tri-City contract and garbage collection, contingent on residence re-definition, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tranberg. Discussion: J. Anderson-when does this go into effect? January. Roll call vote : D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Ordinance amendments and changes. Attorney Radcliffe drafted Ordinance 23-11-6-1 that changes the following ordinances: 38.03, 21.05, 16.02, 18.12, 43.03, 37.01, 37.02, 28.01, 28.03, 44.01, 44.03, 27.02, 50.10, 62.13. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve Ordinance 23-11-6-1, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.** Ordinance 28.01 was changed for snow emergencies. **Motion by C. Ekern to adopt Ordinance 23-11-6-2, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

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Information only: GEC building permits

Server license for approval: Andrea Lyga. **Motion by J. Tranberg to approve Lyga application, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Server license revocation: J. Tranberg excused himself from the Council. Chief Johnson has a letter in your packets regarding this revocation. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve revocation of server license for Nicole Currier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: Attorney Radcliffe was not given this information from Chief Johnson. Attorney believes this is not the procedure that needs to take place. Motion by D. Stephenson to withdraw motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion by J. Anderson to send matter to Attorney Radcliffe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

2024 Spring nomination papers were handed out to: D. Stephenson, J. Anderson, and J. Tranberg

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

Next Common Council Meeting, Monday, December 4, 2023

**Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn at 7:57 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Debra Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer