

## City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, August 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, was duly called, noticed, held and conducted in the manner required by the Common Council and the pertinent Wisconsin Statutes on August 6, 2018. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor A. Knutson; Alderpersons-W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, M. Lisowski, Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson, Blair Press and Trempealeau County Times. Alderperson C. Ekern was absent.

Public Comment: None

Present minutes for approval: Special Meeting 6/27 and Regular Council Meeting 7/9/2018. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve 6/27 & 7/9/18 minutes as presented, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Central Trempealeau County EMS information: Joni Olson, CEO Gunderson Tri-Co Hospital & Clinics, gave information related to the recent changes funding of the ambulance service in our area. Joni explained the history of the service as they know it, was originally privately owned and at some point the municipalities took over assisting with support of the service through monthly assessment fees and also purchase of new ambulances. This was determined via a 'per population' calculation. The past few years it has become more of a challenge for the municipalities to meet these costs and a cause of much concern for the municipalities. With the possibility of losing 1 or more of the 8 original municipalities that are part of this service area, due to cost, the hospital has decided, as of January 2019, to no longer ask for the assessments or the funding of new ambulances. Reasons center on the hospital not wanting to lose the service area they currently have. This in no way impacts the work they do with the Arcadia Ambulance Service. These are 2 separate services and all provide quality care. The hospital wants to keep the service, which supports the emergency room and the community needs an emergency room, this is needed to keep them all viable. The hospital continues to work hard to recruit EMS and Paramedic staff. J. Anderson asked if services will change, Olson said no change in services.

Blair/Chippewa Baseball League use of ball fields: Nate Dahl was unable to attend tonight's meeting; request to move to September agenda.

Speed hump/Stop signs/fire burn permit topics revisited: These topics are being revisited because of the considerable feedback received by Council members, the Mayor and City Office. Attorney Robertson, showed the 'draft' Ordinance 19-Solid Waste/Disposal, which now includes 'burn permit' language. **Motion by P. Syverson to return this to the Ordinance Committee for further review and consideration, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.** Speed Humps/Stop signs: After much discussion and understanding that there are pros and cons for both sides of each topic. **Motion by P. Syverson to rescind the July motion to place stop signs at Tappen and Olson; will not be placing stop signs at that location, 2nd M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-4, No-1. T.W. Motion carried.** Clerk Frederixon said Mr. Hurst was offered the idea of a variance for a front yard fence as he wanted before, but he declined. Speed hump/rumble strips were discussed. **Motion W. Cartrette to send to Street Committee for further research, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Street light pricing-Olson Street & City parking lot: The City will install 2 wood poles on Olson Street between Birch & Hickory; one near 903 E Olson and the other on the corner of E Olson and Hickory, at a cost of \$2500 to the City. **Motion P. Syverson to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.** The City parking lot can't have poles installed by Xcel Energy. **Motion P. Syverson to send to the Street Committee and have Clerk obtain quotes from local electricians, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

City Park Ash Tree removal BID review: no bids were received; no action taken.

Urban Forestry Grant Application agreement: Nate Dey of SEH reported that a DNR grant is available to help with the planning and expense of Ash tree removal due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The deadline is October 1, 2018. The grant is for \$25,000. The City pays 100% of the cost up front and then is reimbursed after work is complete. Work needs to be done between 1/1/2019 and 12/31/2019. The grant will help with costs related to treating, removing, and replanting diseased ash trees. SEH can assist with the application. **Motion J. Anderson to approve SEH agreement for writing Urban Forestry grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Lisowski. Discussion: this agreement is to write the grant only. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Hwy 95 Ditch Cleaning Project: Clerk reported that information has been given to the 3 property owners affected by this project. At this time, only Mr. Paulson has responded. He feels culvert is okay and just needs to be cleaned out and ditch needs to be reshaped for better drainage. Bids were received from Hegg Contractors Inc and Erickson Excavating LLC. Hegg received the low bid of \$5990.00. **Motion M. Lisowski to approve Hegg Contractors Inc bid option #1 of \$5990.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Application for Class B Liquor License: Rita Tranberg Memorial event. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Syverson. Discussion: None Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Application for Class B Liquor License: Blair Cheese Festival event. **Motion J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Park Committee Report: J. Anderson reported that most of the discussion was related to the Lake. SEH representatives were present to discuss possible sites for sediment placement, which is an important part of a successful and cost effective project. Deer topic was discussed, with many questions – put on hold. Park Committee will meet again in August to keep the Lake project moving along. Pool project update: W. Cartrette presented a change order to replace a stationary life guard chair with a movable one and to add a 3-step ladder to the north wall for the plunge area. This is a deduction of \$732 to the project. **Motion P. Syverson to approve change order as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.** Pool vessel is complete, the roof is on the bath house: lots of work has need completed in the month of July and things are coming together nicely. There was a request to have the construction site cleaned up for safety concerns. The expected substantial completion date is September 24, 2018; with testing and training to be done yet this year and the opening planned for the 2019 season.

Public Property & Buildings report: T. Wheeler reported the meeting was centered on preparing and reviewing BID documents for the Community Center. The Committee, D&D Builders, & Kelly Electric all helped out with putting together a good bid sheet. This was needed for fair bidding to take place. One bid was received from Simmons Construction, which Town of Preston opened at their meeting, prior to the City's. D. Nelson reported the bid was \$50,800. This amount would be paid for with proceeds from flood insurance and the rest split 50/50 between the Town of Preston and the City of Blair. The Town of Preston accepted the bid with a request for a daily penalty to be attached for every day that the project goes beyond the stated deadline. After much discussion, **Motion W. Cartrette to accept Simmons Construction bid of \$50,800.00 as presented without the penalty portion, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Lisowski. Discussion: We can't move forward with project until Town and City agree on a bid. Question to D. Nelson – do you have the discretion to change the Town of Preston's motion? Per D. Nelson, he does not. In order to move project forward, W. Cartrette modified her original motion to include a daily penalty of \$1 per day for work not completed by 9/12/2018. Town of Preston requested that number be increased to \$50 per day. W. Cartrette amended her motion to include a \$50 per day penalty amount, 2<sup>nd</sup> M Lisowski.**

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**Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.** D. Nelson, Town of Preston agrees to notify Simmons of the bid decision.

Police & Ordinance meeting: Chief Wheeler met with Fire Chief Armitage and Cheese Festival committee regarding police coverage during the event. Chief Wheeler feels he will need assistance from the public works staff in managing the parade route on Sunday. He will work on a map along with actual required staff need and present to the committee and report back at the September 10 meeting. Chief Wheeler also shared information that he had gathered on ATV ordinances.

Clerk Report: Randy Ekern, Street Supervisor, organized sealcoating to be completed the week of July 30<sup>th</sup>. Hydrants were all exercised in half the time due to a new tool Bob Fraust purchased. Most of the brown, wooden posts in the Park have been removed, a few remain by the pool area.

SPW compliance update: report from City Zoning Administrator – the drain tile lines are still in progress. Makes sense to push back the inspection another week and give them time to get in place. Inspection report ready for the September meeting.

SPW underground slurry update: Nathan Stobb, Compliance Manager, stated the line will most likely be operational at the end of August. There will be a significant amount of reduced contractor availability, which is putting a delay on the project.

Building Permits: Hank Kokke @ 1117 E Broadway St for new pole building; Owen Berg @ 310 Park Rd for a deck; James Peterson @ 616 E Olson St for removal/reconstruct wider driveway; Cassandra Schneider @ 840 e Broadway St for installation of pool; Lesley Moen @ 402 W Second St for a deck; Mike & Jamie Ressel @ 136 E Second St for deck replacement. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve all as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Present Vouchers for review and approval: **Motion J. Anderson to approve the vouchers as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: P. Syverson-Yes, J. Anderson-Yes, T. Wheeler-Yes, W. Cartrette and M. Lisowski-Yes. Motion approved.**

**Next Council meeting is September 10, 2018 @ 7:00 pm**

**Motion J. Anderson to enter into closed session 19.85(1)(f) for purpose of employee personnel & medical leave discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

**Motion P. Syverson to return to open session, 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

**Motion P. Syverson to approve Leave of Absence requested by Steve Larson, to end 8/20/2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

**Motion P. Syverson to adjourn meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**