

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2019 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 February 4, 2019. 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 and C. Ekern, Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson and Trempealeau County Times.

Public Comment: Tim Wheeler representing only himself, not City of Blair Police Department. Discussion about his interest and ambition to assist with the 'vision' the City residents and Council have discussed of rejuvenating our City and especially our downtown district. Tim stated that he believes people are interested in architecture, colorful artful buildings and green spaces. He noted we have a start on that with the buildings like the City Hall, Robertson Law Firm and most recently the new aquatic center to add to our Park/Lake area. In an attempt to hopefully spark some additional energy in this area, he has spent time gathering and documenting ideas of his own and others and has worked with Blair Lutheran Church Vicar Paul to bring his vision to paper. Tim presented 2 wonderful drawings of a DRAFT of what our downtown area could look like, in the future with teamwork and possibly City and other group involvement. He spoke of areas for outside eating, maybe a bandstand, etc. all ideas welcome. Pictures are available for viewing at the City Office.

Present minutes for approval: Regular 1/7/19 & Special 1/16/2019 Council Meetings. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve both sets of minutes as presented, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Source Energy-Preston 2019 Road agreement renewal: The road agreement is the same as previous year, only the dates have been changed to cover to 12/31/2019. Clerk reported there have not been any complaints related to trucking agreement for the Preston site. City Attorney Robertson has reviewed the document and recommended it for approval. Town of Preston has approved this 2019 agreement. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Lake Henry 2019 Dam Inspection proposals: 2 proposals were presented: Oakridge Engineering for price not to exceed \$1,800 and S.E.H. for an amount not to exceed \$2,750. S.E.H. wanted the Council to know their engineer is out of Minnesota and has 35 years' experience. Clerk verified with WI DNR that both companies would be fully qualified to conduct the inspection to DNR requirements. **Motion by M. Lisowski to take low bid from Oakridge Engineering, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: centered around the Lake project being done by S.E.H., it might be important to have them do the inspection so they can coordinate the timing of the inspection with the 'draw down' of the Lake. Lisowski and Syverson rescinded their motion & 2nd. Motion by J. Anderson to table until March meeting and ask Clerk to talk with S.E.H. and Oakridge for timing of the Lake 'draw down' and if Oakridge can accommodate the inspection being done in August/September, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6 No 0. Motion approved.**

Official Newspaper change: With the loss of our Blair Press, the City needs to decide on an 'official newspaper'. Clerk provided information from Trempealeau Co. Times of their interest and willingness to provide good coverage to the City. They would be proud to accept that position. **Motion by C. Ekern to name Trempealeau Co. Times as our City Official Newspaper as of this date, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6 No 0. Motion approved.**

Reports:

Park Committee meeting 1/17/19: Chairperson W. Cartrette reported on the Lake project, S.E.H. recommends increasing to 176,000 cubic yards dredge volume and that will be added to the plan. Verbal Council agreement. Request from Park committee & Council for Al Robertson to work on completing draft haul route land owner easements for review. Once that is done dredge plan can move forward.

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Pool update: Staffing, wages & training were discussed. Committee recommended City pay the new Red Cross training cost of \$300 for our lifeguard training. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.** Committee recommending to have 5 lifeguards with no basket room/lobby attendants, but use lifeguards to rotate in and out of the lobby. With 15 minute rotations to include the lobby, this will help guards to stay alert at all times and offer them a break from the sun. Previous year's staff included 4 lifeguards and 1 basket room staff. Also to be competitive with area aquatic centers the Committee recommends our starting wage for lifeguards to be \$8.25, a wage survey of Osseo, Whitehall and Arcadia was done for comparison. **Motion by W. Cartrette to start lifeguard at \$8.25 per hour with a .25 cent increase for each returning year of service, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.** Cathy Mathson, was asked to get together a list and some pricing for items that will be needed to conduct lessons, and general pool practices and bring it back to the committee for consideration. Swim lane extensions will also be needed as the ones we had were damaged during construction, Cathy is also researching those. WSI lesson training is typically reimbursed by the Aquatic Centers, if the teachers stay the entire season, the Committee is wondering if we need to do the same. **Tabled until Cathy can give estimate of how many attending and cost.** Also presented was Request for Payment # 12 from Wapasha Construction for work done thru 12/31/19 in the amount of \$50,089.18. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve payment request # 12 for \$50, 089.18, as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: M. Lisowski asked if they are working at this time, answer no, need warmer weather to complete items. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Police/Ordinance Committee meeting, 1/29/19 report: Chairperson C. Ekern reported, Committee heard discussion related to Comwas, LLC Bio fuel business requesting a variance or general letter of support from the City for their business. They currently are dealing with court proceedings to prove they are not in any way practicing any type of rendering in their business. After discussions with owners of Comwas LLC the Committee would recommend to full Council approving a 'letter of support' and they would consider a variance in the future if needed. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.** Consideration of possible need of City Hall re-keying: this item was recommended to be researched by the Public Buildings Committee. Discussion was also heard related to possible need in future to rezone a parcel near the Park entrance for possible new business, no recommendations at this time.

Clerk report: No primary election in February; 2 deer have arrived in our Park and are settling in nicely, they have been given a clean bill of health by a local Veterinarian and are becoming very popular already, thank you to Fleishman's Orchard for donating apples; City Clerk toured R. A. Hoffer camouflage transfer business on Broadway Street and was very impressed with the process, she is now a happy customer and highly recommends a visit, very impressive business and we are lucky to have in our City; City water superintendent painted the interior of our new lift station and saved the City approximately \$3,500; 1st annual Police department winter festival was a success and fun was had by all; Simmon's construction company is ok with City removing the 4th Street stormwater portion of the approved Spring 2019 project, so it can be included in the CDBG Infrastructure Grant project.

Gilbert Street Co-op Parcel discussion: City Assessor recommends Council request a professional property assessment be done, so they have good information to assist with an offer on the parcel of interest. **Motion by W. Cartrette to send to Public Buildings & Property Committee to consider an offer amount, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6 No 0. Motion approved.**

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2019 Burning Pit permit request: Dennis/Cindy Stephenson @ 913 E. Broadway; David Bautch @ 910 E. Broadway Street; Kevin & Kathryn Hardie @ 127 E. Broadway Street; Paul Tjoflat @ 528 E. Taft Street; Kris Stephenson @ 124 E. @ 2nd Street; Carl Axness @ 815 E. Olson Street; Edgar Anderson @ 525 E. Olson Street; Tyler Palkowski @ 103 E. 2nd Street; Tammy Long @ 912 E. Broadway Street; Bruce Johnson @ 624 maple Street; Lance & Carey Johnson @ 216 E. 5th Street; Shawn Ekern @ 332 E. Broadway Street; Randy Ekern @ 805 E. Olson Street/**Motion by J. Anderson to approve all as presented except D. Stephenson due to set back distance , 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Building Permits: Errol Doerr @ 231/223 N. Gilbert Street for storage units. Per Clerk/Treasurer Frederixon the current zoning for this property lists 'storage' as a 'conditional use'. Conditional uses need to be reviewed by the Plan Commission and then with that recommendation considered by the full Council. Attorney Robertson agreed. No action taken. Council in verbal agreement to send to Plan Commission.

City was invited to a WI DNR enforcement meeting related to wastewater management. City of Blair, Whitehall and DNR met in BRF to work on a plan to bring our strengths into compliance. A series of unavoidable issues came up for both communities to cause levels to become out of compliance and with the help of both Cities, DNR and our largest industrial user we were able to come up with a plan the DNR said made sense. It is estimated it will take approximately 6 months to correct, which the DNR approved and will be monitoring. City of Whitehall council will be reviewing the current agreement and let us know of any further concerns.

Present Vouchers for review & approval: **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve vouchers as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Motion by C. Ekern to enter into Closed Session per agenda language, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by J. Anderson to return to open session, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

No action was taken from the Closed Session

Motion by J. Anderson to adjourn, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Next Council meeting is March 4, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer