

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 11, 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 March 11, 2019. In the Mayor's absence City Council President P. Syverson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: City Council President & Alderperson, P. Syverson, Alderpersons- W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, M. Lisowski and C. Ekern, Mayor A. Knutson (absent); Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson and Trempealeau County Times.

Public Comment: Jill Anderson commented on the following since not listed as agenda items – As an Alderperson she has gotten comments about the poor condition of the plowed streets. Questions if our equipment cannot be lowered completely to the pavement? Request research and information reported back. What is the protocol for a water main break? Happened on my street, no phone call about the break or information about the plan to fix and how it might affect residents in that area. It was a Sunday, but in the public we have to be sure we are taking care of things as they happen. Residents were chipping ice away from storm drain in knee deep water, City staff needs to be watching and keeping care of this type of thing. Hoping to find out if there is a protocol and how we can be sure it is improved and followed going forward. Also received questions about City employees using equipment/loader for personal use, move snow out of own backyard. **Because this was not on the agenda Clerk Frederixon was unable to respond; will research these items and report back at the April 8 meeting.**

Present minutes for approval: Special 1/16/2019, Regular Council Meetings 2/4/19 & 3/4/19. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve all three sets of minutes as presented, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Agreement for 2019 DNR required Lake Henry Dam Inspection agreement revisited: Clerk Frederixon had confirmation from Oakridge Engineering they would be able to accommodate an August or later inspection to coordinate with any needs of the Lake dredge project. S.E.H. commented although they would love to do everything engineering related for the City, they would certainly work and coordinate with Oakridge for a successful inspection to be done. S.E.H. quote was '\$2,750 lump sum'; Oakridge Engineering quote was 'not to exceed \$1,800. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve low quote from Oakridge Engineering for 2019 Dam Inspection, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0, Motion approved.**

Dam repair updates: Per City Clerk Frederixon: Dorner Company from Sussex, WI checked over our dam for needed repairs. Decided to concentrate on immediate needs which was 2 motors in need of replacement. Cost for exact replacement is \$10,512 each, Dorner recommended alternative motors at \$6,910 each, but would need some labor to adapt these motors to work with our manual operation of the dam. **Motion by C. Ekern to table until more information can be obtained on cost to modify lower priced motors, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: concern for repairs to be done prior to fall inspection. C. Ekern amended motion to include Clerk to contact Dorner Co. for more accurate cost of modification of less expensive motors, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: President Syverson inferred topic should be sent to the Public Property Committee for working out details & report to full Council. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

4th Amendment to 1983 & 2005 Wastewater Treatment Agreement City of Whitehall and City of Blair: Clerk explained City of Whitehall is requesting this amendment to extend the agreement to 2045 because of WDNR Clean Water Funding requirements, for the rebuilding of the Whitehall Main Lift Station. The only thing changing is the extension of the agreement to meet the loan repayment timeline. This is the same type of amendment Blair requested and Whitehall granted a couple of years ago when we upgraded the Blair Main Lift Station. Attorney Robertson shared he had reviewed the document and agreed the only item changed was the term from 2037 to 2045 and recommended the City Council approve. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve 4th amendment to WW agreement as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Hi Crush Blair offer to be proactive in flood prevention: Ron Rogness representing Hi Crush Blair as Director, Corporate Responsibility & Government & Community Relations shared the news the company internally had concerns of the possibility of flooding related to the large snowfalls. Brainstorming on possible ways HiCrush might be proactive in helping prevent or lesson any flood events. Counties are currently under flood alerts. Thoughts: #1. Provide sand at request of Emergency Management Coordinator & Fire Departments of Jackson/Trempealeau County. #2 HiCrush purchased a 'skid steer device' called Sand Master 20; it loads and ties 20 sand bags at a time. If needed for flood control, we would need to request an exemption for 10-20 trucks to help move requested sand for flood control. Requests have already been received from Pigeon Falls, Osseo, Town of Preston, Whitehall and Blair. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve truck request as presented to assist with flood control, second by J. Anderson. Discussion: C. Ekern suggested checking with other entities of shared roads. W. Cartrette said Thank you for being a good neighbor. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Car Cruise event for 2019 for Blair downtown district: Tim & Julie Wheeler, rural Blair, showed flyer for a car show event in the City downtown district to showcase our City and promote Community pride and enjoyment. June 13, 2019 date of event 3:30 to 9:00 pm. No charge, car, trucks, cycles, antique tractors, etc. on display. Hope to showcase Blair businesses, civic groups, religious centers, ethnic foods, music, etc. Sidewalk display booths encouraged. Family event. Request to the City Council is to block downtown district, Broadway Street from Dover Street to Pearl and Gilbert Street from Center Street to Broadway, for the event and waive the open container ordinance during the event. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve Street blocking as described and waive the 'open intoxicant' ordinance during event, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: Thank you. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Reports:

Park Committee meeting 2/21/19 was rescheduled to 3/13/19 so no Park report: Chairperson W. Cartrette did have 2 topics for consideration though: Ballfield upgrade infield material needs to be decided on and ordered – 3 types were presented from Waupaca Sand & Solutions Co., recommended by DirtMonkey, the company doing our upgrades. Samples were very close in quality and performance. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve # 2 sample, 'Sure-Hop Select infield mix to be used for our 2019 field upgrades @ an approximate cost of \$1328.00, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: all samples were good, this one seemed a little finer, and all are close in price. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Consider purchase of pool cleaning system: Cleaning System was never included within the bid for pool project. Two types were recommended by Burbach Aquatics, for us to consider that would be good for our type of pool, both are approximately \$ 5,000 in price. **Motion by J. Anderson for City Public Works Team, Park Committee and Cathy Mathson to research, decide and purchase a good set up, within \$6,000 budget, money to come out of 2019 general budget or CIP, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.****

Public Property & Building Committee meeting, 2/21/19 report: Chairperson T. Wheeler reported, discussion on Chief Wheeler's request to rekey some doors in the City Hall. Committee reviewed information and are recommending to have 2 squad bay doors, 2 police department doors, 1 evidence room door and 1 hallway file room door rekeyed. Total of 6 doors at an estimated cost of \$ 700.00. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve Committee recommendation of 6 doors to be rekeyed, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Countryside Co-op Parcel offer to purchase: Committee is recommending an offer of \$5,000 and sign placement stating a 'thank you to co-op for 'in kind' donation of remaining value of the parcel'. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Clerk to extend the recommended offer to the Co-op, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: Mike L. questioned use for parcel? Answer from Council members is extra parking for Cheesefest, Pool, extension of City parking lot, etc. Vote: Yes 5, No 1, (M. L.). Motion approved.****

Public Property & Building Committee report continued: Revisit of City shop building swap with Ekern Collision building on East end of City in Industrial Park: This was a topic that was being researched by the City Council in 2014 and never resolved. This was originally discussed as Council was reviewing building needs, City seems to need larger shop and Ekern business was considering downsizing. The Committee discussed the current and future needs and recommends not to pursue this matter at this time. No action was taken, but general verbal agreement was noted. Also request from Committee to have City crew work to remove icicles from City property as safe and soon as able. Clerk shared they have been removed from the ambulance building and Community Center building already.

Insurance Claim for Collapsed Park shed update: Clerk Frederixon explained she was notified on Saturday, 2/23/19 the Park shed roof had collapsed from snow load. Clerk took pictures on that day and contacted insurance representative. Sunday Clerk filed a claim with insurance after getting a call from them. On 3/1/19 the Claims Specialist came and with Jim Nyen and Clerk reviewed and documented the damage. Expected the building is a total loss, not sure on contents as to dangerous to enter. City is insured for replacement costs and also on contents. The items we know are in the shed are mowers, chipper, and much pool small equipment, and new double tool box, deer feed and much miscellaneous. Requesting a Public Property and Building committee meeting soon for review and planning on this issue. **Motion by Mike L. to send to Committee for review, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

CDBG Grant Street & Infrastructure project update by D. Schofield: Bid opening was held on 2/28/19. Five bids were received for the project. Bids ranged from \$1,303,240.32 to 1,595,896.01. For comparison purposes, the award was based upon an estimate of approximately \$1.1 million. The City received a \$500,000 grant for the project. Low bid was submitted by Gerke Excavating, Inc. of Tomah, WI. S.E.H. can confirm they are a competent contractor. The alternate includes sidewalk along east side of Main Street from 4th Street to approximately 160 feet south of Broadway @ cost of \$21,631.02. S.E.H. recommends the City award the project (with or without the alternate sidewalk) to Gerke Excavating, Inc., contingent upon receipt of all required bonding & insurance. S.E.H. also recommends alternate is a valuable item for future development and reasonable cost. **Motion by C. Ekern to award contract to Gerke, low bidder, to include alternate of sidewalk along east side of Main Street from 4th St. to approximately 160 feet south of Broadway, for \$1,303,240.32., 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: Council checked on completion date would be done as to not affect Cheese Festival in mid-September/S.E.H. yes. Council mentioned need to discuss how to fund the balance of the project not funded by grant, also. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.** 2019 CDBG Utility project Dover Street Alley Utility easements needed; Per S.E.H. easements are needed for the project. Attorney Robertson has been working on those and looking to acquire these easements; 6 will be needed. Attorney Robertson had a sample easement in the packet for Council to review. No action on this topic. Lake Project update: S.E.H. February meeting was rescheduled for March 13 so that is coming up. We have applied for the wetland fill permits, which are required for project. Expect to hear in about 3 months. Next discussions will be around funding, easements for possible haul road (Attorney Robertson had sample in packets for review) 7 will be needed if this plan is used. Lake Project is estimated at approximately 2 million dollars. Will need much discussion on that substantial cost.

2019 Building & Burning Pit permit request: Craig Nyen @ 1100 S. Pine Street for new underground 'WE Energies' gas line installation; Matt Berg @ 505 E. Olson Street for fire pit. Clerk shared both permits are in order and meet Ordinance requirements. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve both permits as presented, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Audit question about 2018 Source Energy Royalty Payment: Clerk shared Source Energy Services promised the City a minimum of \$100,000 royalty money for at least 10 years. The City accepted and earmarked that amount to be used to pay down debt service on the \$605,000 loan for pool construction, until paid off. We are excited to announce that we received a check for \$247,120.06 instead. Auditors question is how we should account for the additional funds. Currently we receipt under 'restricted annexation funds' and designated to pay pool loan debt service'. Would you like to keep assigning it all for the pool or split some out for future projects like the lake? City Clerk is asking if there is any interest in using all of the 2018 payment to pay on the pool loan which would save approximately \$54,000 interest. After much discussion. Motion by C. Ekern to pay \$100,000 on pool loan and keep other in the general annexation fund for future projects, like the 2019 Street project, etc., 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: Ok to invest if Clerk and financial advisors think makes sense. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Clerk report: 2018 Annual audit with Baker, Tilly Audit firm went well the week of February 25th, it did take 4 full days this year as the auditors put it 'there is A LOT going on in the City of Blair; preparations are in place for the April 2nd election, we have 3 Alderpersons and the Mayor on the ballot; Clerk has been notified our CWD Deer Certification has been approved and valid through March 2020; City office has received compliments and thank you cards for the hard work our snow plowing force has done during this very difficult weather winter. John Anderegg on Taft Street, Jessica Howe on Tenney Avenue and Bridget Barczak on Knutson Street, all recognized we had RECORD snow fall amounts to deal with and also the extra effort to keep school bus stops open and safe. Police department also received personal thank you from family members of a person that unfortunately passed away, but the thank you was for the professional and personal handling of a difficult situation; Pool pass information to be distributed to school kids, posted, placed on website and advertised.

Present Vouchers for review & approval: **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve vouchers as presented, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. P. Syverson designated M. Lisowski to sign check register, because he was overseeing the meeting.**

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

Motion by W. Cartrette to return to open session, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

No action was taken from the Closed Session

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

Next Council meeting is April 8, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer