

City of Blair Re-Organizational Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2022

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Alderpersons attending: C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, J. Tranberg, and Attorney M. Radcliffe, City Clerk S. Frederixon.

Administer Oath of Office to newly elected & re-elected Alderpersons: Ward 1-Dennis Stephenson, Ward 2-Jill Anderson and Ward 3-Jeremy Tranberg.

Open Meeting Law Requirements were verified.

Present April 2022-April 2023 Standing Committees: (1st name = Chairperson): Board of Health-C. Ekern, J. Anderson and T. Wheeler. Park & Recreation Commission-J. Anderson, T. Wheeler and P. Syverson. Police & Ordinance- D. Stephenson, T. Wheeler and J. Tranberg. Public Property & Buildings-D. Stephenson, C. Ekern and J. Tranberg. Street, Lights, & Equipment-P. Syverson, T. Wheeler and J. Tranberg. Tax, Finance, & Personnel-J. Anderson, P. Syverson, and D. Stephenson. Water & Sewer/Joint Sewer Advisory-T. Wheeler, C. Ekern and J. Tranberg. Business & Economic Development-C. Ekern, D. Stephenson and P. Syverson. Library Board Representative-J. Anderson. Fire Department Liaison-T. Wheeler and C. Ekern. Joint Fire Board Representatives-Jay Vehrenkamp and Bill Hamble. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve standing committees as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion:** D. Stephenson spoke, “in regards to Police/Ordinance Committee I respectfully request that you retain C. Ekern on this Committee, I feel he has been knowledgeable and in charge of the Committee for some time. It is my belief the administration of the City is pursuing a witch hunt to remove or make it easier to remove the City of Blair’s Police Chief by removing Chris from this Committee. My basis for this, I believe there are certain Council members and Mayor that are stacking this Committee to get a dismissal of our Chief. This month we had several items on the agenda relating to making changes to the Police Department, these changes in my opinion are designed to make it easier to relieve our Police Chief from his duties. There was a complaint filed against the Blair Police Chief that has been dropped, it’s over. Why are we continuing to go down this road? I believe we are opening the City to a harassment and toxic employment environment workplace lawsuit. Sounds like we are in a mini Washington D.C. In addition we had a referral from Council to hold a Police/Ordinance Committee Meeting, the request for meeting was originally denied by the Mayor, then was allowed to take place, the notice was posted as required, but listed as the date of the meeting was December 25, 2022. I believe this was done intentionally to not have the meeting or to trap the Committee into holding an illegal meeting. Not humorous at all, offensive, no respect or regard towards the Committee. All 3 Committee members were listed, however information only sent to 2 Committee members received information.” (M. Lisowski had ended his Council term & new member had not received Oath). Stephenson made a suggestion that Council should change the end date for retiring Council members to the Re-Organizational meeting so there could be a full Committee for the meeting. “As of April 8, 2022 we have spent almost 73% of our annual legal fee budget, I suspect this is to do with trying to fire Chief Johnson. Tomorrow or in the near future I will seek an ‘open record law’ to see why this is so, who is stimulating this expense and where these funds are targeted towards. Truly an inappropriate action with no complaint in place.” C. Ekern said he wanted on the next agenda formation of an Ethics Committee. Attorney Radcliffe: reminded C. Ekern and all that if they want to talk about liability and issues you need to stick with what is on your agenda. Right now there is a motion on the floor for who is going to sit on these Committees. Mayor asked if any other discussion: Clerk Frederixon was recognized, “on

Aldersperson Stephenson's comment of intentionally messing up the agenda for Police Ordinance meeting, absolutely false, must have been a clerical error, NEVER INTENTIONAL, I PROMISE". Stephenson said "Not Buyin' it". Frederixon: "Oh My Gosh." That's great Stephenson! J. Anderson question: Is there any recourse if Council doesn't agree with Mayor's appointments, City of Blair Ordinance Chapter Four, 4.05 Standing Committees was read out loud, Mayor shall appoint committees. The Mayor shall designate the committees and their functions, as well as the number of aldermen to serve on each one. The Council, upon its affirmative action, may create additional standing committee to be appointed by the Mayor. **Roll Call vote: T. Wheeler-Yes, J. Tranberg-No, J. Anderson-Yes, P. Syverson-Yes, C. Ekern-No, D. Stephenson-No. Vote Count: Yes – 3, No – 3. In a tie vote, the Mayor breaks the tie and the Mayor votes Yes. Motion approved.**

Nomination of Council President: C. Ekern nominated D. Stephenson, 2nd by P. Syverson. Mayor called 3 times for other nominations, no other nominations Mayor closed the nominations. **Vote: T. Wheeler-Yes, J. Tranberg-Yes, J. Anderson-Yes, P. Syverson-Yes, C. Ekern-Yes. D. Stephenson-abstain. Motion approved.**

Presentation of General Offices by Mayor Rawson: City Assessor–Eric Kleven, City Attorney–Radcliffe Law Office, S.C., City Civil Defense Director–Chief K. Johnson, Official City Newspaper–Trempealeau County Time, Official Depository Bank–Waumandee State Bank. **Motion by J. Anderson, to approve as presented, 2nd D. Stephenson. Discussion–None Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Blair Plan Commission and Zoning Committee Appeals Board Members: Blair Plan Commission: Mayor J. Rawson, J. Anderson–Park Committee Chairperson, C. Ekern–Aldersperson, Brian Stenberg, Joe Arneson, Lesley Moen and Rod Anderson. Zoning Board of Appeals: Jim Peterson*, Dean Dale, Paul Polege, Carl Axness and Jean Stenberg. **Motion to approve Zoning members by P. Syverson, 2nd by D. Stephenson.** *Discussion–Jim Peterson had originally declined to serve another term on zoning board, but was at the meeting and said he is interested in serving in other areas of local government and as long as this Committee appointment did not interfere with that he would agree to serve another term. Without specific details can't answer Peterson's question, would have to look at time when an opportunity comes up. **Motion by P. Syverson to appoint Jim Peterson to a new term for City Zoning Committee, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Motion by D. Stephenson to approve the Blair Plan Commission and Blair Zoning Appeals Board as presented, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Set meeting dates for May 2022 through April 2023: May 2, 2022 June 6, 2022 July 11, 2022, August 1, 2022, September 12, 2022, October 3, 2022, November 14, 2022 December 5, 2022, January 9, 2023, February 6, 2023, March 6, 2023, April 10, 2023 and April 18, 2023. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve dates as presented, with change of the January 2023 meeting date changed to January 9 as January 3 is considered a holiday, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion–none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Council Meeting returning to City Hall: Council agreed it was time to move the Council meetings back up to City Hall Council Chambers. **Motion by P. Syverson**

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going forward to have all Council meetings take place at the 122 S Urberg Council Chambers in the City Hall, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.

Next meeting: May 2, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn by D. Stephenson, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Vote: Yes 6 No 0. Motion approved. Meeting end time: 6:54 pm

Susan Frederixon

City of Blair Clerk-Deputy Treasurer