

## City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, May 2, 2022

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Open meeting requirements were met.

Roll Call: Mayor J. Rawson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, J. Tranberg were all present.

\*Aldersperson Stephenson resigned his Aldersperson and CDA position with a short note this morning. Also present: Trempealeau County Times and Clerk Susan Frederixon.

Public Comment: None

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council 4/11/2022 Meeting. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve 4/11/22 minutes as presented in packets, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion carried.**

Introduction of Smart Sand as new owners of Hi-Crush Blair facility and Financial Assurance language and planning discussions with John Behling & Joe Blair **POSTPONED**-need City Attorney present.

Present annual July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 Liquor Licenses for publication: **Class B and B Licenses** to sell Fermented Malt Beverages and Intoxicating Liquors at the premises listed in the City of Blair: Nathan D. Dahl-d/b/a Bullpen Sports Bar @ 106 N. Gilbert Street; John P. Kauss-d/b/a Farmers Escape, LLC @ 228 W. Broadway Street; David A. Donnelly-d/b/a The Barnyard Tavern @ 212 W. Broadway Street; Jeremy D. Tranberg-d/b/a Blair Haus Sports Bar & Grill @ 107 W. Broadway Street: LLC; Lisa Blaken & Traver Anderson-d/b/a Wildcat Saloon @ 264 W. Broadway Street. **Class A and A Licenses** to sell Fermented Malt Beverages and Intoxicating Liquors at the premises listed in the City of Blair: Kwik Trip Inc. @ 511 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street; J & S Sales of Chippewa Falls, LLC d/b/a Express mart @ 126 Spring Street.

- Dolgencorp, LLC d/b/a Dollar General @ 314 W. Broadway Street, Blair-verified they will be renewing but renewal paperwork has not been received at the City yet.

The above petitions will be acted upon by City Council on June 6, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve Liquor License petitions for publication as presented with the exception of Dollar General. Dollar General is approved for publication if the application paperwork is received prior to the publication deadline, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Blair Fireworks Committee request for parking changes for event: Committee member Scott Janzen explained that last year Gilbert Street from the Park entrance to Hwy 95 was open to traffic and we had some large truck traffic and cars coming down that Street with all the people and things going on with the event it seem like a pretty good chance for some sort of accident. It was noticed that people tried to leave the 'bass pond' area from the Hwy 95 side directly out from the field on to the Hwy, very dangerous. For safety purposes we would like permission to block Gilbert Street off from Hwy 95 to Park Road, with Park Road being open from the South and tape off the 'bass pond' area on the Hwy. side. **Council was supportive of Committees request, suggested a 'City Road Closure Permit' be completed and placed on the June 6, 2022 agenda for action. Committee was happy to do that.**

Committee Meeting Minutes Reviewed with action: 2022 City assessment Open Book Meeting 4/18/2022; 2022 City assessment B.O.R. Meeting 4/25/2022; Blair Business Development Group 4/21/2022; Park Commission Meeting 4/27/2022; Street/Lights/Equipment Committee Meeting 4/27/2022. **Motion by J.**

**Anderson to accepted minutes in packets as presented and place on file, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Possible Action/Park Committee Meeting Recommendations:

Committee is recommending hiring of Cathy Mathson as Pool Director again for 2022 season. Lauren Kidd, Ella Halverson, Emma Nyen, Makenzie Brandenburg, Noelle Walters and Delia Paulson as lifeguards. Cathy Mathson, Leah Kidd, Lauren Kidd and Nelly Margan as WSI swim lesson teachers. **Motion by J. Tranberg to approve all applicants presented by Park Committee Chairperson to be approved for hire as stated, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: C. Ekern expressed concern about not having enough staff for a full pool schedule and suggested continued advertising, Anderson said the Committee and Director will be discussing the schedule. If we don't have enough staff it may require adjusting some hours at the pool. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

WSI and Pool Director wage/action item: In April 2022 this Council increased lifeguard wage by \$1.25 per hour. Committee is recommending the same \$1.25 per hour increase for WSI and Pool Director wages. They would go from \$12.75 per hour to \$14.00 per hour, this group has more training, certifications and responsibilities. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve the Committee recommended wage increase of \$1.25 per hour for Pool Director and WSI lesson instructors, bringing them to \$14.00 per hour, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: J. Anderson explained previous years the Pool Director received a \$2,000 amount and wages this year will be just going hourly with no \$2,000 amount. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

COVID cleaning process in Park: During the COVID extreme times, we increased daily cleaning of Park bathrooms from once a day to 3 times a day. Now we are we think it would be ok to cut back to 2 times per day going forward, once in the mid-morning and once in the late afternoon and that is our recommendation. **Motion by J. Tranberg to approve Committees recommendation to change to twice daily cleaning of Park bathrooms going forward, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Committee recommends advertising for pool staff for 2 more weeks, sharing the increased wage. Council verbally requested Clerk to plan for additional advertising.

Park Manager and Committee are working to have the pool ready for May 24<sup>th</sup> Blair Taylor Elementary School children to have a fun day in the Park to include swimming. Open to the Public yet to be decided.

J. Anderson shared that Ken Nereng has purchased the court materials for a 'pickle ball' court, which would be placed where the current tennis court is. Cheese Festival Committee offered to reimburse Mr. Nereng. City just needs to get tennis court area prepped so the court can be laid. J. Anderson is working to coordinate this.

Street Committee Meeting recommendations: Street Sweeper was discussed. Andy presented condition of the present sweeper, Committee agrees the City should not put additional funds into this piece of equipment but look at purchasing new. Committee also looked at used large Elgin type sweepers, but 10 years old is \$125,000. After reviewing information the Committee is recommending the purchase of a

new larger Holmes loader attached sweeper @ a little under \$ 30,000. Delivery expected approximately 2 weeks. **Motion by P. Syverson that City purchase the larger Holmes loader attached sweeper for just under \$ 30,000, with funds from our CIP Street equipment fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes.** \* No decision yet on what to do with old one. Other equipment was discussed but no decisions were made. Sander and international plow are in need of repair. 1998 Freightliner is has been repaired, is running but need to think about replacing that also. Committee requested Andy Graff to research replacement/repair of these items and bring back to Committee. Street projects for consideration: there is a Grandberg Hill washout, Main Street box culvert is filling in again, the Gilbert Street water pooling issues between Broadway and Center and the water pooling at Broadway and County S. Committee asked Andy Graff to research prices for these items and bring back to Committee, we are thinking we should have enough in budget to get these projects done. Also discussed additional lighting on some Street where needed. Lights on bridge that are tipped and need to be decided on how to handle. Both have been disconnected, they are the City's property. Committee is recommending to remove those 2 light poles and not replace them. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve removal of the 2 light poles on the Hwy 95 Bridge that are tipped and disconnected and not to replace them, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wheeler. Discussion: Request for Clerk to try to check with D.O.T. if ok to remove them. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** Committee discussed County S. project being done by Trempealeau County in 2023: County is redoing the center part of County S. from Broadway to the City limits toward Tappen Coulee Road, both sides of the road are the City's responsibility. County wants to know if we are wanting improvements made to our section at the same time. Committee working to get information on bidding concrete curb and gutter also for that section of the road, currently it is very poor condition or no curb and gutter. The other issue is the City culvert near the City limits on that road also needs to be replaced or upgraded. Also discussion about possible improvements to the drainage to the creek. Committee also talked about the Salt Shed replacement and Clean-up of the sewer line to Whitehall, might be for other City Committees to discuss (Buildings and Water and Sewer Committees/Chairpersons will request meetings). City Clerk will have S.E.H. call Andy Graff to work on together.

April G.E.C. Building Permit report was shared with Council member, information only.

Clerk Report: None

Present Vouchers for review and approval: **Motion by J. Anderson to approve the vouchers as presented in packets, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Tranberg. Discussion: None. Roll call vote: C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes and T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

**Next Council meeting is June 6, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**

**Motion by J. Anderson to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Ekern. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. Time 7:24 p.m.**

Susan Frederixon, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer