

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ardell Knutson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council attending: C. Ekern, W. Cartrette, J. Anderson, and T. Robertson and S. Frederixson-Clerk/Treasurer. Absent: P. Syverson and T. Wheeler.

Open Meeting Law Requirements Met – posted more than 24 hours in advance and in three public places.

Motion T. Robertson to amend agenda to include: action on Welcome to Blair sign near Hwy 95 bridge and consider request from Henkels & McCoy, company working on highline construction to drive on weight restricted roads for equipment removal the week of March 12, 2018, second C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion approved

Public comment: T. Armitage asked that the Council consider UTVs being allowed access on some roads in town. The Ordinance Committee will look at what we currently enforce.

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 2/5/18 and Special Council Meeting 2/22/18. **Motion C. Ekern to approve minutes as presented, second W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion approved.**

Business District parking signs: C. Ekern, business owner on W. Broadway St. asked that K. Lien speak to the matter of putting back up the original parking signs in the business district. Katie was told that the signs are identical to what was previously there; just newly printed as the old signs were worn and faded. She would like the sign to stay up and be enforced.

Police/Ordinance Meeting: held on 2/12/18. T. Robertson stated that the committee recommended that the signs be taken down and the ordinance set aside for a 6 month period and then be reviewed and/or modified. In light of the discussions tonight and those views shared by the City Clerk of several residents, the council felt this should be looked into further. **Motion W. Cartrette to table issue and send it back to the Ordinance Committee for further review and possible open meeting with the public to get feedback, second J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

S.E.H. engineering: J. Guhl, Senior Environmental Scientist, stated that the Lake Sediment sampling has been completed on Lake Henry. Results were handed out – the next step is DNR submittal and they would decide on what permits are required. **Motion C. Ekern to submit results to the DNR, second W. Cartrette. Discussion:** should this go to the Lake Committee? – No, not until submitted to DNR. **Ayes-4, Nays-0. Comprehensive Plan Update –** A public hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The citizens of Blair are urged to attend and participate. A copy of the plan may be viewed at the City Hall.

Controlled burn, set aside burn ordinance: The burn pile is from work done this summer on the Webster Street project and clearing out the old dump road. **Motion C. Ekern to set aside burn ordinance for the controlled burn, second T. Robertson. Discussion:** why can't the chipper be used? **Ayes-3, Nays-1 J.A.**

Park Committee Meetings: held on 2/7, 2/14, 3/1 of 2018. W. Cartrette reported on the pool progress; most of the meetings were picking colors for the project. We had a late start due to demo of pool, electric and gas utilities, late state submission, and other difficulties. The new open date is set for August 3, 2018. Concerns now are the short season for hiring staff and the late finish of construction. Maybe have an opening event in August? Maybe open it in June 2019? We have a donor who is willing to pay for substantial enhancements to the pool house, fence, benches, pathway, and the pool itself. The donor would like a plaque to be put up with their name on it. The August 3 start date is if things go according to plan and there are no further demands. The Park Committee suggests waiting for a 2019 opening. **Motion by T. Robertson to table opening date until next month and see where we are at that time, second C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion C. Ekern to pay Wapasha for application of payment #3 in the amount of \$82,194.00, second W. Cartrette. Discussion: none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.** W. Cartrette stated that the Pool Director job should be advertised and filled, so that person can be part of the whole set up and training of the new facility. **Motion W. Cartrette to place ad for Pool Director for the 2018 season, second C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Police/Ordinance Meeting: continued from above discussion – T. Robertson reported that the committee is organizing a Police and Fire Commission; which would be made up of 5 non-elected citizens, serving a 3 year term. The city attorney is working on language to be adopted.

Personnel Committee Meeting: held on 1/31/18. J. Anderson reported that they are updating job descriptions and looking at the vacation section in the personnel policy.

Fire Liaison Meeting: held with Town of Preston on 2/7/18. C. Ekern stated that they worked on language in operations paperwork. If/when the Board approves changes, it will be presented at the next council meeting.

Water/Wastewater committee Meeting: held on 2/28/18. C. Ekern reported that they reviewed the camera findings from SEH. There were 4 areas of immediate concern: #1-Main Street has an old line with pipe failure. It would take a total redo: water works, sidewalk, street, curb and gutter - \$500,000. #2-Oak Street has pipe failure and needs replacement - \$100,000. #3-Immell Street has storm water runoff issues because of the pitch of the street - \$350,000. #4-Dover to Urberg Alley has pipe failure, needs reconstruction and realignment - \$55,000. The total cost for all projects is around \$1,000,000. The City is able to apply for a CDBG grant, which would cover up to \$500,000 (1/2 of the project). It is the committee's recommendation that SEH send off for the grant. **Motion T. Robertson to allow SEH to submit grant proposal for the water projects, second J. Anderson. Discussion:** is this all that needs to be done? NO – this is where the immediate need is. **Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Plan Commission Meeting: held on 3/1/18. W. Cartrette reported on new business request for conditional use permit in downtown district. J. Ressel explained their plan. The Plan Commission voted 3-2 to approve the conditional use permit. C. Ekern stated that foot traffic is essential with a new business and would like to see a retail business in there. T. Robertson stated that his voting district is tired of vacant buildings – we need businesses in town. Maybe the front of the building could be used for something else? W. Cartrette would rather have a retail business in the downtown. **Motion J. Anderson to approve the conditional use permit. Motion failed due to lack of a 2nd. Motion J. Anderson to table until next meeting when more council people are present, second T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.** The second item discussed at the Plan Commission meeting was a conditional use permit of short term trucking for Hi-Crush Blair. Deke Williamson stated that Hi-Crush seeks this limited amendment to address an unanticipated and temporary disruption to its timely transportation of sand via rail, its method of choice. This amendment would allow the trucking of sand from the Hi-Crush facility a short distance north on south River Road to Hwy 95. No trucks would pass through the City of Blair. The Plan Commission recommended to approve the permit 4-1. **Motion J. Anderson to approve change in conditional use permit for 3 months, second T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Building Permits: C & N Nyen @ 1100 E Pine Street for new home construction. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve permit contingent on County permit, second C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.** K. Lien @ 221 Tenney Avenue for deck replacement, window replacement and a fence. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve permit contingent on County permit and following setbacks for garden shed, second T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.** Sand Products Wisconsin @ 17353 Bunyan Rd for belt press building. **Motion T. Robertson to approve permit, second J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Welcome to Blair sign: Speltz, who did the other Welcome to Blair signs can fix sign for \$1275. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve, second C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Weight Restrictions Lifted: Henkels & McCoy, working with the new high lines being put in, are requesting a lift of weight restrictions to remove equipment on Schansberg Road the week of March 12, 2018. **Motion T. Robertson to approve this lifted restriction as long as the Town of Preston agrees as well, second C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Clerk Report: US Hwy 53/Hwy 95 DOT improvements by 2020(out by Kwik Trip), Annual Audit went well, February 20 election – 67 voters, sign replacement – Welcome to Blair

Review of Non Metallic Mining CUPs: Source Energy slurry status – borings will be done next week; expected date of completion is 1st part of July. Source wants to get rid of trucks as well. Could monthly update be sent to Clerk? Yes! Who is are Zoning Administrator? Brad Henschel. **Motion W. Cartrette to send the zoning administrator issue to Plan Commission, second T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-4, Nays-0.**

Present Vouchers: **Motion J. Anderson to approve vouchers, second C. Ekern. Discussion – none.** Roll Call vote- J. Anderson-yes, T. Robertson-yes, W. Cartrette-yes, C. Ekern-yes.

Motion C. Ekern to adjourn, second W. Cartrette. Ayes-3, Nays-1(T.R.).

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer