

**City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Present minutes for approval:** Regular Council Meeting 3/14/2016. **Motion to approve 3/14/16 minutes as presented by C. Ekern, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Public Comment:** none.

**Blair-Preston Fire Department – Liquor License:** Asking for Temporary Class “B” liquor license for the Fireman’s Dance to be held on May 7, 2016. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve license, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none, Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Road Agreement Renewal:** Jason Featherly spoke on Preferred Sands behalf regarding the road agreement between them and the City and the Town of Preston. Jason asked that the one-time upfront payment be struck and Preferred would pay upkeep on roads as needed. **Motion by T. Wheeler to accept road agreement with # 6, the ‘one time’ upfront payment being stricken, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion – none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Blair Haus Benefit:** Request from Owner/Operator J. Tranberg, for street closure and open container with in designated area, for weekend of June 17, 2016 for a ‘benefit’ event. Street closure ok with, Dave Lyga, County Highway Department and approval support also given for Street closure to block off Broadway Street from Gilbert Street to Pearl Street from 5:00 pm on Friday, June 17 to noon on Sunday, June 19, 2016 for a onetime benefit event. The area will be fenced in with snow fence. Expectations are that the event will be done by 9:00 pm. **Motion by T. Robertson to allow open consumption of alcohol within the 1 block area that will be closed off; with ordinances set aside for a special event, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion – Pearl St. to Gilbert St. will be blocked off. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**GVCC Project:** lawyers are working on an offer to purchase. No action at this time.

**Hi-Crush Financial Assurance change:** Per A. Robertson/legal advisor for City of Blair, Hi-Crush may change their method of financial assurance without modification of the Reclamation Permit/Plan. The change would be from a Letter of Credit to a Surety bond. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve change from irrevocable letter of credit to a surety bond, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion – none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Wildcat Subdivision Update:** Riverland Energy discussed utility easements and requested the electrical utilities to be installed in the front, near streets instead of under utility easements in the back of the lots. This allows for easier access and less property damage. **Motion by J. Anderson to allow for electrical utilities in the front, instead of the back on the Wildcat Division, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** R. Flege reported that Gerke will start with the sanitary sewer on April 27 and the water mains on May 11. Gerke will need it in writing if they are taking fill to a location within the City.

**Professional Agreement Services:** Fire Station-Community Center condition assessment and Fire Station space analysis. P. Syverson remembers a study being done previously. **Motion by W. Cartrette to table until further review is done and Town of Preston can be approached, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Blair-Preston Fire Department Update:** Travis Armitage thanked the City for the new fire truck. It has worked flawlessly and has been needed at a recent fire. There has been extensive training done since the purchase of the truck and that training came into play with the recent fire as well. The need for two trucks has been critical and has been justified several times over within the City of Blair. It has saved lives!

**Building Permit Penalty:** consideration for adopting a \$25 penalty when work begins before building permits have been approved at a Council meeting. The uniform dwelling code is not enough. **Motion by W. Cartrette to send to Plan Commission with recommendation of a minimum \$100 fine, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion – none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**QRail land sale information:** No contact from QRail. No action needed.

**Committee Reports:** Plan Commission meeting 4/6/16 – Ordinance 46.04(7)(b)(4)-recommend churches as a conditional use in the business/commercial district. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Ordinance 46.09(1)(b)-recommend to allow additional accessory buildings on residential lots larger than 5 acres. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Ordinance 46.04(9)(d)(e)(f)-recommend to strike minimum lot size in industrial district. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Ordinance 46.04(7)(b) – recommend to approve apartments on street level where no part of the apartment is at the front of the building and the commercial/business portion must comprise of at least 30% of the square footage for the street level floor. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Request for proposals related to the comprehensive plan and financial management plan. Recommendation to accept sample with percentage changes made. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Personnel Committee meeting 4/7/16 – J. Anderson reported having meetings with public works employees and hiring part-time summer employment to help them out, discussions only, no recommendations at this time.

**Trempealeau Co. Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan Survey:** This is a plan that describes the hazards that occur and lists the strategies, goals, and projects, which will eliminate or minimize the loss of life and damages. The City is asked to take a survey to aid in this plan. Clerk Frederixon plans to work with the Police and Fire Departments for complete information to complete survey.

**CN Railroad invoice:** The railroad upgraded a crossing in the City of Blair for a cost of \$12,889, following guidelines of a contract between the railroad and the City from 1960. The invoice amount is considered to be very high, but on the contract surface seems to be the City’s responsibility. **Motion by T. Robertson to refer to city attorney to review contract and make recommendation at next meeting, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Request for reimbursement:** A door was damaged during a police call and the owner is requesting reimbursement. The Community Care Doctrine makes this bill not eligible for reimbursement. **Motion by J. Anderson to not reimburse, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Clerk Report:** hired Sam Melby for interim, limited term public works help, Residential clean up days set for April 18-21, 2016, Thank you to Jeanette and Monte Noren for hangers at Community Center, Xcel Energy LED street light upgrade, and Deer Antler bid of \$180.00 – proceeds go to buy deer feed.

**Municipal Pool Update:** W. Cartrette reported that as of April 28 the last pool analysis from Burbach will be complete and the pool committee will meet that same night at 7 pm. Those on the committee include: Cathy Mathson, Gwen Kidd, Jacob Stephenson, Julie Wheeler, Liz McDougall-Saxe, Renee Syverson, and Sally Poff. Discussion about resident requirements for the Committee, but the Council felt like the pool will be a “Community” project and the City would benefit from the input of all members. The park committee: W. Cartrette, J. Anderson, and C. Ekern would be non-voting members of this committee. All decisions related to pool project contract or dollars will go through the full Council public approval process.

**Building Permits:** Gary & Shirley Knutson @ 402 E. Broadway – framing existing outside steps. **Motion by T. Wheeler to approve, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion-already done, discussed fines, no ordinance. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Alvin Samples & Amy Neubauer @ 526 W. Broadway – repair basement walls. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve, need county permit and inspection, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Cindy Dippman @ 230 Mill Rd – electrical service upgrade. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Chad Ekern @ 317 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. – replacing roof, walls and garage door on existing garage. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-5, Nays-0, Abstain-C. Ekern.** David Bautch @ 910 E. Broadway – 12 x 16’ shed. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Lee Henschel-Blair Press @ 109 N. Gilbert St. – repair/reinforce floor supports. **Motion by T. Wheeler to approve contingent on county inspection seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Dick & Shirley Miller @ 615 E. Olson – detached garage. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve contingent on county permit and approval, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Present Vouchers:** **Motion to approve vouchers by W. Cartrette, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion - none.** Roll Call vote- J. Anderson-yes, T. Robertson-yes, T. Wheeler-yes, W. Cartrette-yes, C. Ekern-yes, and P. Syverson-yes.

**Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1) (b) (c) related to Personnel issues: Motion by C. Ekern to enter into closed session, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion - none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Motion by T. Robertson to exit closed session, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion - none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

**Motion by T. Robertson to adjourn, seconded by C. Ekern. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

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Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer