

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, June 6, 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, T. Robertson, and S. Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer.

Consider an Amendment to the agenda to include: building permit for M. & J. Noren, Road Agreement with Town of Preston, and change tree donation from Ashley Furniture to Ron & Joyce Wanek. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve amendments, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

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

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 5/2/2016 and Special Meeting 5/10/16. **Motion to approve minutes as presented by C. Ekern, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Public Comment: none.

Open Liquor License Hearing: Motion to open liquor license hearing by C. Ekern, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Application for temporary class “B” retailer’s license for the Blair Fireworks Committee. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve license for July 3, 2016 Blair Fireworks Committee, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Report from Park Committee on Meeting #3 held on May 19, 2016 and Meeting #4 held on June 1, 2016. Josh Layer from Burbach Aquatics had a handout presentation. Cathy Mathson talked about the many discussions of remodeling the old pool. The old pool needs a liner, it is not meeting ADA regulations, it has plumbing issues, the main drain is too small, the floor is cracked, the circulation is not up to code, the electrical is inadequate, a pump and the mechanical system needs to be replaced. The only thing salvageable is the walls of the bathhouse. They have looked at 7 different plans for a pool. . Reviewed components of 2 versions of pool plans (one with a slide and one without a slide). Looked at budgets with and without competition equipment. Lizzie McDougall spoke as to why the committee felt it was important for City of Blair to have a pool. Josh Layer of Burbach Aquatics reported that they had been hired by the City to do an analysis. In his opinion the ground water issue that the pool has negates repairing the old pool. The current site, along with a site by the Schroeder shelter, and a site by the old Blair Elementary building was evaluated. All sites are in the flood plain. The current site already has the sub-base material under the pool, which makes it more preferable. The RR traffic and vibrations are not a concern according to the engineers. Gwen Kidd stated that a parking lot is a possibility, but also an extra cost. The old bath house would be turned into the maintenance room. A project budget is needed very soon, as the pool committee has established a very aggressive plan to have the pool operational by the summer of 2017. The City of Blair’s financial advisor stated that a \$2.75 million pool makes him very nervous. The pool committee recommends Version B with a waterslide and if the capital campaign falls short, the waterslide would be cut. W. Cartrette stated that 75% of the total amount of the pool needs to be raised by September. **Motion by C. Ekern to investigate Version 7B for the pool with a waterslide at a cost of \$2,276,000 and to send proposal to the finance committee to determine the dollar amount the City will be putting towards the Pool Project with input from Brian Reilly, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion – T. Robertson stated that although he appreciated the efforts made toward the pool project, he can’t support it. He felt that with this large amount of money, it would be better spent on a year round project that all residents could enjoy, such as a Community Center or Lake improvements. Ayes-5, Nays-1.**

Carpet Replacement in Blair-Preston library: The carpet is bubbling up in spots and has become a safety issue. Kris McNamer will look into replacement costs and providing more information at a later date. **Motion by W. Cartrette for Kris to continue looking into options for carpet replacement and obtaining bids, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Wildcat Subdivision Update: R. Flege reported that the Platt was resubmitted and will be approved in approximately 10 days, the safe water test was good, and the duplex already in place on the Wildcat development sits too low and will need an inlet to be added to catch and deposit water into storm sewer system. The first application for payment has been submitted from Gerke Excavating. **Motion by J. Anderson to pay Gerke \$152,223.84 out of the TIF money account, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Motion by T. Robertson for S. Frederixon to find appropriate account out of the CIP funds to take non-TIF money out of and pay Gerke \$9707.20, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.

Main Lift Station Update: S. Frederixon recapped the Pre-construction meeting held on June 2, 2016. All representatives and contacts for the project were identified, along with responsibilities and the correct chain of command. Wapasha Construction estimates starting in September, working Monday – Friday from 7:00am to 3:30pm, with a completion date of December 31, 2016.

Webster Street Extension: Rebecca from SEH gave estimates on the extension of Webster 900 feet north of Broadway Street. The road only, without utilities, was estimated at \$199,332 and the cost of the road and utilities was estimated at \$364,932. Right now Allied's entrance goes across the current road and a proper entrance and exit is needed.

Ron & Joyce Wanek Memorial Donation: W. Cartrette read a letter from Ron & Joyce Wanek. They are donating \$1000 for trees to the memory of Bob & Dorothy Burt and Marge Arneson. They are also donating \$9000 for trees to the past/present/future Ashley employees. Randy Ekern would work with a Foundation employee to discuss and evaluate the current needs for the trees. **Motion by W. Cartrette to accept donation of trees from Ron & Joyce Wanek, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Request for Authorizing Resolution #06-06-2016 for 2015 CMAR Waste Water Report: The Compliance Maintenance Annual Report relates to the waste water system and is a self-reporting review. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve report as presented, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion – none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

2015 DNR Consumer Confidence Water Quality Annual Report: This is an annual report that was submitted to the DNR and approved with no violations. For informational purposes only.

WE Energies gas lines to Wildcat Division: The cost of providing natural gas to the division is around \$18,500. It may change if there is more linear footage. They will want to be paid in advance. For informational purposes only.

Credit/Debit pay option: GovPayNet is a credit/debit way to pay bills online or in person or by phone. There is a 5 year commitment. **Motion by W. Cartrette to allow S. Frederixon to go forward and pick a program and implement it, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Consideration of utility vehicle and landscape or concrete area at City Hall: The Public Works staff has put in a request for a utility type vehicle to be used for the park and streets. **Motion by T. Robertson to refer request to the Streets, Lights, and Equipment Committee, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** The Public Works staff would also like to request that some kind of landscape or concrete be put between the ramp and the City Hall building. **Motion by W. Cartrette to refer request to Public Property and Buildings Committee, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-review costs and get estimates. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Report on Open Book and Board of Review: The meetings were held on June 1, 2016. Our City had 19 sales this past year. No residents were in attendance.

Clerk Report: Brian Stenberg was hired as a second part time public works staff, 2012 storm debris project has been completed, debris is gone, 2nd street bridge approach and sidewalk repair will have requests for bids advertised, Main Street excavation work update near old elementary school done to provide better drainage for FFA class projects/if needed debris will be removed, “bass pond” area clean up, Jeff Lee “Thank You” for retirement gift, upcoming Ordinance Committee meeting set, and City Street dead animal removal policy discussed, S. Frederixon will monitor and report on further animal removal.

Building Permits: D. Nokken–fishing pier @ 141 Mill Road. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Nokken permit contingent on DNR approval, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays -0.** A. Neubauer/A. Samples-cement walkways @ 526 W. Broadway. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Neubauer/Samples permit, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** J. & S. Hanson-restoration due to fire @ 312 S. Immell St. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Hanson permit contingent on county permit and inspection, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none, Ayes-6, Nays-0.** E. Anderson-new deck @ 425 S. Peterson.

Motion by W. Cartrette to approve Anderson permit contingent to county permit and inspection, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. K. Kamrowski-pool @ 117 S Spring St. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve Kamrowski permit, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** P. Kampa-deck @ 230 Mill Road. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Kampa permit contingent on county permit and inspection, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** City of Blair-Main Lift Station @ 240 N. Spring St. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve City of Blair permit with State plans already being approved, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** M. Noren- cement slab @ 227 Mill Road. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve Noren permit, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Close Liquor License Hearing: Motion by C. Ekern to approve all liquor licenses and close hearing, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.

Road Agreement with Town of Preston for Preferred Sands: The following changes were made by the Town of Preston: a lower case “t” was changed to upper case ”T”, the township was changed from “incorporated” to “unincorporated” and a limit of 10 truckloads a day was added. **Motion by W. Cartrette to allow the clerk and the mayor to sign the agreement, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Schedule Personnel Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 15 @ 6:30 pm and Wednesday, July 6 @ 6:30 pm.

Schedule Public Property and Building Committee Meeting: Monday, June 13 @ 5:00 pm.

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

Motion by J. Anderson to adjourn, seconded by P. Syverson. Ayes-6, Nays-0.

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer