

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, July 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, T. Robertson, and D. Fremstad – Deputy Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Consider an Amendment to the agenda to include: Softball donation request. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve amendment, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Public Comment: none.

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 6/6/2016. **Motion to approve minutes as presented by W. Cartrette, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Softball Donation Request. Donation requests to this council are to a city government which does not give charitable donations. **Motion by T. Robertson to deny request, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-**there is no formal request process in practice. **Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Ron & Joyce Wanek Memorial Donation: The Wanek Foundation requests that the City employ a certified arborist to help with the tree donation. There were 3 arborists found in the area and 1 returned a call. Tree Savvy out of Eleva stated the most important step in the process is to make sure the trees are planted properly. His company would come to the park and show the “best practice” method for planting trees and do as many as they can in 1 day. The 1 day cost would be around \$700-\$1000. **Motion by C. Ekern to hire the arborist to assist with planting the Wanek trees and to take the money out of the donation cost, so as not to exceed \$10,000, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Report on Public Property & Building: T. Wheeler reported on the meeting held on 6/13/16. The City salt shed issue needed to time and information. The City landscape issue of pouring concrete by the ramp to replace the grass was approved. The committee has received comments from citizens that they would like to see the green space kept under the flagpole.

Report on Streets, Lights & Equipment: P. Syverson reported on the meeting held on 6/13/16. The Webster Street project was discussed. The project will proceed to the bidding process, with the exception of the Erosion Mat and Paving being excluded. Total estimated costs from TIF funding would be \$152,257. **Motion by P. Syverson to proceed with Webster Street extension to the north of Broadway, with money coming out of the TIF # 7 funding seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** The extension of Taft St. and Hickory St. would have to wait until a later date. Discussed City equipment considerations for the future: small utility vehicle for park, small grader, dually dump truck, plow truck, street sweeper, water-sewer line locator, ditch witch, emergency waste water trash pump, and **street paint striper. New to City, Dump/Plow Truck:** P. Syverson reported on the City’s new purchase. T. Wheeler and Randy Ekern travelled to Jefferson County to look over the truck that was on sale online. They agreed it would be a good purchase. **The City was top bidder at \$65,805.00.**

Report on Tax, Finance & Personnel: J. Anderson reported on the meeting held on 6/15/16. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer had a 6 month review and the committee recommends she receive a \$.50/hour increase in pay. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve the \$.50/hour increase, seconded C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** The financing for the pool was discussed. The committee recommended that the City take 1 million dollars from the Hi-Crush donation and dedicate it to the pool finances. **Motion by J. Anderson that the City contribute 1 million dollars towards the pool project fund, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-**there has been negative feedback from taxpayers that the pool is too much money for the City to take on. The pool is not the Taj Mahal, it is a basic pool. People would rather see the lake done than the pool. **Ayes-4, Nays-2 (T. Robertson, T. Wheeler).**

Report on Police & Ordinance: T. Robertson reported on the meeting held on 6/27/16. The police department has had trouble filling shifts with part-time help. This is not just a City problem, it is County wide. **Motion by T. Robertson to add a 3rd full time police officer to the staff, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-**part-time

officers should then only be needed for the Fireworks over Blair and Cheese Fest; along with covering for sick or vacation time. **Ayes-5, Nays-1(P. Syverson).** Several ordinances were looked over at the last meeting. Chapter 29.16.6 deals with licenses and permits; discussed the problem of repeat investigations that result in no council vote due to a failure to appear. **Motion by T. Robertson to add new language to subcategory c) Failure of the license holder to appear at the fact finding hearing ends the appeal process for 24 months and then move all other sub categories down accordingly, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** The committee will meet again and review the fee and fine structure and fine tune it. The burning permit process will also be looked into and modified. The last topic looked into was the County wide 911 property numbering system.

Report on Pool Committee Meeting: W. Cartrette reported on the meetings held on 6/29/16 and 7/7/16. The capital campaign has begun, a list of potential donors will be drawn up and ways to approach this process was discussed. If we don't reach our goal, we don't move forward and would not open in 2017.

Wildcat Subdivision Update: R. Flege emailed her report. The lot with the duplex on it requires a storm structure and pipe to address pooling water. This has been installed and any minor rock replacement required at the driveway will be replaced by Gerke. The major earthwork has been completed and installation of topsoil and rock will start with anticipated completion on Thursday. At that point asphalt will be ordered. TriCounty Communications and CenturyTel both have fiber/cable to be relocated along the back fence line – both at no charge to the City. Once completed, Gerke can finish Pine Street and the back lots. Discussion – Duplexes are only allowed on Olson Street with single family homes on all other streets per our TIF requirements.

Building Permits: T. Witcraft – 28x24 garage replacement @ 135 E. 2nd St. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Witcraft permit contingent to county permit, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** J. Jacque – fence @ 206 S. Knutson St. **Motion by P. Syverson to approve Jacque permit, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** W. Ressel – replace wheelchair ramp @ 406 W 1st St. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve Ressel permit contingent on County permit and inspection, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** D. Nokken – boat dock @ 141 W. Mill Rd. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve Nokken permit, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Clerk Report: Susan is at UW Green Bay attending her 3rd year of Clerk-Treasurer Institute this entire week. Classes run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with lots of interesting classes to attend. Susan wished to thank the City Council and the Blair residents for affording her this opportunity for learning. Jeff Lee's retirement picture with his gift from the Council was passed around. Jim Nyen has tacked down the wavy carpet in the library as a temporary fix and Kris McNamer said that was helping quite a bit. Susan received confirmation form Dawn Olson, Certified Holistic Nutritionist, who is starting a new business in town. Update on the Olson LP building.

Present Vouchers: Motion to approve vouchers by T. Robertson, seconded by P. Syverson. 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: Motion by W. Cartrette to enter into closed session per state statute 19.85(1)(c), seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.

Return to Open Session: Motion by T. Robertson to return to open session, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.

Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.