

DRAFT - City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, November 14, 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, T. Robertson, J. Anderson and S. Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Public Comment: Tiana Marthaler observing the meeting for a Politics class @ Winona State University.

Report on Plan Commission: meeting held on 10/26/16. Discussion related to: rezone 144 Mill Rd to B-2 Highway Business Commercial, operator's license fee and enforcement of permit in Mobile Home Parks, and imposing a fine for failing to obtain a building permit. Plan Commission recommends to full Council to approve zoning of entire parcels previously owned by city at 144 Mill Road to B-2/Highway Business/Commercial and to adopt new language within Ordinance 46.11 to include a \$100 fine, plus cost of permit for failure to obtain an approved building permit prior to any construction. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve the zoning change to B-2 Hwy Business Commercial for the entire area in both parcels previously owned by the City at 144 Mill Rd, seconded by Rod Anderson. Motion by T. Robertson to adopt new language to set a new dollar amount for Mobile Home Operator's license, seconded by W. Cartrette. Motion by A. Knutson to add to Ordinance 46.11 a \$100 fine, plus cost of permit for failure to obtain a building permit prior to construction.**

Revisit sale of 144 Mill Road: The land has been resurveyed. Ed Berg spoke about his concerns for the property. A. Robertson stated that only one part of the parcel was deeded to D. Nokken. **Motion by W. Cartrette to include the entire parcel of land be deeded to Nokken and that it be rezoned to B-2 Hwy Business Commercial, seconded by J. Anderson. Discussion – none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

BIDCO – Wildcat Development: D. Frederixon & D. Stephenson reported that 1 corner lot was sold. Lot #21 is in the process of drafting an offer to purchase. Hopefully more interest will come once houses go up. Trinity Farms will mow the area next year.

Concern for feral cats in the City: Thane Mattson & Joyce Schneider expressed their concern over the abundance of feral cats in the City. Whitehall has a great ordinance for cats, can Blair adopt it? Thane has caught 68 feral cats on his property alone. **Motion by T. Robertson to refer issue to the ordinance committee to check what Whitehall has adopted and consider limitations to number of pets within a home, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Eric Thompson stated that the cats have been in his area for years and years.

Hi Crush Financial Assurance: D. Carlson, with SEH, reported that Hi Crush would like to open up phase 2, which would have an additional bond amount. The financial assurance bond would be for \$2.745 million. They are in conformance with the Reclamation Plan. The City Council is the entity responsible for the financial assurance. Phase 1 will be mined out by next spring, reclamation is being done as the phase goes on. A tour could be made at any time, but spring would be better when they are fully operational. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve the financial assurance bond for \$2.745 for Hi Crush, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-T. Wheeler, Phase 3? Phase 2 will take a good year. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Preferred Sands Road Agreement: John Harper with Preferred Sands would like to extend the agreement through the end of year 2017. They have moved 29,000 tons of sand minerals with 131 trucks and never any more than 10 trucks per day. There has been no layoff as of yet. The Town of Preston has approved this new agreement. **Motion by T. Wheeler to approve extension of the road agreement through 2017, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 10/3/2016. **Motion by T. Wheeler to approve minutes as presented, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

GVCC-CBRF: Brian Reilly from Ehlers reported that a set sale resolution for the nursing home mortgage revenue bonds needs to be considered. The resolution is federally required before the actual issuance of the document can proceed. The Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law has been completed and published, therefore a Public Hearing may take place. **Motion by J. Anderson to open public hearing for GVCC bond issue, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Mayor A. Knutson asked three times for comment on GVCC. **Motion by P. Syverson to close public hearing, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** **Motion by P. Syverson to approve resolution providing for the sale of approximately \$5,000,000 Nursing Home Mortgage Revenue Bonds, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-** A. Robertson, need a roll call vote. **Roll call vote: Paul-yes, Chris-yes, Wanda-yes, Terry-yes, Tim-yes, Jill-yes.**

Main Lift Station Project Update: R. Flege of SEH reported that Wapasha has not started the on-site part of the project yet. They should have been done by November 30, but they submitted to change the substantial completion date to December 31. Wapasha has been sent notice that they have not met the contract requirements.

Storm Water Review Update: Eric Henningsgard, of SEH gave a report on the storm water review. The evaluation was completed in two phases. Phase one was a review of two developments; the 2009 Blair Industrial Park and the 2015/2016 Wildcat Residential Development. Phase two is a field review of the developments and four storm water areas of concern. **Motion by T. Robertson to send to a joint Streets committee & Water committee meeting, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-should Erik be there? Yes-Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Waste Water Treatment Agreement: This is a third amendment to the 1983 & 2005 Wastewater treatment agreement between the City of Blair and the City of Whitehall. The Clean Water Fund loan for the Lift Station upgrades requires a 20 year agreement with Whitehall. This would extend the agreement from 2033 to 2037. **Motion by T. Robertson to extend the Wastewater Agreement to 2037, seconded by P Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Snow Removal Bids: No bids were received. Clerk suggested that this practice end and that the City of Blair alternate between the two contractors that normally bid. **Motion by W. Cartrette to alternate calls to Nelson Diesel & Dozing and Saxe Excavating for snow removal, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Nomination Papers for 2017 spring election: There are three alderpersons whose term is up for election: Terry Wheeler, Chris Ekern, and Paul Syverson. The Mayor's term will also be up for election. December 1 is the first day to circulate papers and they are due back to the clerk by January 3, 2017.

Closed Session per State Statute 19.85(1)(b)(c): discussion of personnel relates issues. **Motion by W. Cartrette to enter into closed session, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** **Motion by J. Anderson to come out of closed session, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** No motions came out of the Closed session-only discussions.

Budget Hearing: **Motion by J. Anderson to open budget hearing, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Committee Reports:

Tax, Finance, & Personnel Committee Meetings: Meetings held on 10/12 & 10/19. J. Anderson, chairperson explained the proposed budget as presented to the council. It includes: \$8500 towards the new carpet in the library, upgrades for phones in the public works department, upgrading maps, \$17,000 towards storm water research, \$10,000 for park mower and cab, health insurance increase of 15.5%, third full time police officer, public works department, in an effort to bring them up to the local average, a 10% increase

in wages, increase of \$2.00 and \$2.50 for part time park staff, increase of 3.8% for librarian, and an increase to \$8.75 for election workers, an increase to \$9.00 for Chief Inspector, 3% increase for police chief, assistant police chief, clerk-treasurer, deputy clerk-treasurer, and library aides. **Discussion/Questions-**Tiana Marthaler asked if the lifeguard wages would increase. There will be no pool in 2017, so there is no need to budget for that expense. Why the \$100,000 increase in general property taxes. This was due to the new construction at Hi Crush and other construction within the City limits.

Park/Pool Meeting: Meetings held on 10/5, 10/19, 10/26, & 11/2. W. Cartrette, chairperson reported on the 11/2 meeting with the Blair-Taylor Park & Rec. Blair pays for half of the expenses, which added up to \$2844 for the year. The committee wants to budget for \$3000 for next year. The Park & Rec also asked for Blair to pay \$1000 towards the expense of using the Taylor gym. It is used by 8 Blair-Taylor YMCA teams, which is about 80 kids. There are no North West teams practicing there. The B-T Park & Rec group wants to install a scoreboard for \$3500, have the softball infield resurfaced and a new home plate, rubber stoppers, and bases installed. Park & Rec wants to hire the field prep people, and check out the lighting for the fields; the youth do not use the softball lights-so do we really need them? The total asked for next year is \$7500. **Motion by J. Anderson for the City to pay the entire \$3500 for the sign with money from the budget and Capital Improvement Projects, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-**none. **Ayes-6, Nays-0.** Meeting on 10/2 for Pool – reviewed current funding of \$1,565,000. To move into Phase 2, the design, we need 75% of the \$1,725,000 cost by Feb 1, 2017- which amounts to \$119,246. W. Cartrette asked if the City is willing to front GNP’s donation of three \$5000 payments over three years’ time. Council agreed. Future fundraisers include: December holiday home tour of 5-6 homes, January wine & painting event.

Police/Personnel Committee Meeting: Meeting held on 11/9/2016. T. Robertson, chairperson reported on the hiring a 3rd full time officer. Interviews were held and the committee is recommending Mark A. Spaeth for the position starting January 1, 2017. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve Mark Spaeth as new full time police officer, seconded by C. Ekern. Discussion-**P. Syverson- is there a residency requirement? Yes, they have to be within 15 minutes of emergency response. **Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Ordinance Committee Meeting: Meeting held on 11/10/2016. T. Robertson, chairperson reported on the Plan Commission recommendation relating to imposing a fine for failure to obtain a building permit. Chapter 46.11(7)(c) would include a \$100 fine for failure to obtain a building permit and that the cost of the permit must be paid in addition to the fine. **Motion by T. Robertson to approve changes to 46.11(7) to include subsection(c), seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-**P. Syverson-shouldn’t language include “before construction starts”. T. Robertson – no, language of permit states obtain before work starts. J. Anderson- is that amount per day or a one-time fee? T. Robertson-that language exists in the ordinance when they fail to comply. **Ayes-6, Nays-0.** The next ordinance change was to 46.04(12)(g)(3); the annual operator’s license fee shall be set by the City Council on an annual basis by December 15 of each year, this relates to the Mobile Home Community Operator’s License Fee. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve ordinance change as presented, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-**T. Wheeler-why the change. T. Robertson-may be based on units or on condition of park. **Ayes-6, Nays-0.** The next ordinance change was to 42.02 & 42.03, relating to Possession of Controlled Substances, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Penalties. It is recommended to repeal and recreate 42.02(2) – It shall be unlawful for any person to use, or possess with the primary intent to use, drug paraphernalia as defined in Section 961.571 WI STAT and repeal and recreate 42.03-Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for each offense, together with the costs of prosecution. Failure to pay the fine, upon conviction, will result in the issuance of a Civil Commitment Order. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, seconded by P. Syverson. Discussion-**none. **Ayes-6, Nays-0.**

Budget Discussion: none.

Close Budget Hearing & Act on 2017 Proposed Budget: Motion by P. Syverson to close budget hearing, seconded by T. Wheeler. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion by J. Anderson to accept revised proposed 2017 budget as reported, seconded by T. Robertson. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.

Building Permits: R. Hurst @ 307 S. Tappen Rd for Egress window; M. Kohel @ 217 S. Knutson for front porch addition; H. Schrock & J. Paulson @ 414 S Urberg Ave. for basement remodel & decks. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve all three permits contingent on County permit approval for Kohel & Schrock and that all copies be returned to City hall prior to construction, seconded by W. Cartrette. Discussion-none. Ayes-6, Nays-0.** For informational purposes only: 3 gas line installations for D. Lofgen @ 416 S. Immell St., D. Pape @ 1008 E. Broadway St., and J. Ressel @ 406 W. First St.

Clerk Report: Wanek Foundation donation of 25 trees, dental insurance rates remaining the same, City Water issues-water filter damage, Fair Housing Policy, preliminary audit set for December 12, preparing for tax collection season, park blacktop debris has all been removed, concrete work complete by 2nd Street bridge, ramp @ City Hall, large shelter, and Immell St driveway (which GVCC is covering the expense of).

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

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

Next Regular Council Meeting: December 5, 2016.

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer