

October 24, 2017 Minutes for Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, was duly called, noticed, held and conducted in the manner required by the Common Council and the pertinent Wisconsin Statutes on October 24, 2017. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor A. Knutson; Alderpersons: P. Syverson, C. Ekern, W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler, T. Robertson and J. Anderson.

Special Meeting 10/18/2017 minutes were reviewed and presented. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Cartrette. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Per Clerk Frederixon, Closed Session topic 19.85 (e) was no longer needed at this time, still need to have Closed Session topic 19.85 (f) and Clerk request to have remaining agenda items # 3 & 4 moved to the bottom of agenda after clerk report. **Motion by J. Anderson to eliminate 19.85 (e) from this agenda and to move remaining # 3 & 4 item 19.85 (f) to bottom of agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Pool Meeting reports: Park Chairperson-W. Cartrette reported: Pre Pool Bid Meeting-10/4/17 was an informational meeting for contractors to have questions prior to bidding answered. Cartrette stood with Pool Committee members Liz McDougall-Saxe, Cathy Mathson, Julie Wheeler and Gwen Kidd to report: Pool Bid Opening Meeting-10/18/17 - 5 contactors submitted bids for all 3 Contracts (Pool, Mechanical and General Construction of a Municipal Pool Structure). Wapasha Construction was the low bidder on the project although the bidding was very close. Total project costs with all alternates and costs from Burbach Aquatics, Inc. Architects & Engineers is estimated at \$2,360,197.98. Funds raised - \$1,713,451.75. Just today a \$15,000 verbal anonymous donation was received (\$5,000 over 3 year period). New remaining funds needed totals \$631,746.28. Cartrette shared that she approached Source Energy/SPW for consideration of assistance through donations for the pool, a representative for them verbally told Cartrette they are willing to reinstate the \$100,000 per year for an extended 10 year period, which will give the City a guaranteed revenue source that was not previously expected. Cartrette is hoping the Council will approve the use of that money to reimburse City borrowing to repay the remaining Pool project costs so this Pool can be completed. There is a need to have a decision by Council today in order to have a chance to meet a projected July 2018 Pool opening. Mayor Knutson asked if Burbach was good to recommend Wapasha, Cartrette said yes, very confident of their ability to complete this project. J. Wheeler pool committee member said the pool is a need for a place for kids to go. T. Robertson reminded the pool is only open 2.5 months of the year to help kids have a place to go. W. Cartrette thanked the Committee and there was a round of applause for their efforts. W. Cartrette recommended to Council that we move forward with this project and have discussions on ways to finance the remaining amount. T. Robertson asked "What happens if the bid is not accepted tonight and gave thoughts to a summer 2019 opening to allow for additional fundraising. W. Cartrette said the bids can be held for 60 days, but if not accepted tonight it will jeopardize an opening in July of 2018 and typically project costs would increase if wait another year. T. Robertson asked for clarification on what the Council is being asked for, City will be promising to fund the pool for 1.6 million? Answer was yes. T. Robertson felt there was an oversight by not bringing this issue to a referendum where the residents would have an opportunity to vote and give proper direction to this Council on the spending of this amount of money when there are so many year-round needs in this community to be considered, makes this decision much more difficult without the will of the people available. C. Ekern agreed there are many competing interests for this money but thought it was better to complete this project and then move to others, Alderpersons Syverson, Wheeler and Anderson verbally agreed. Discussion related to borrowing shortfall and using Source Energy future pledged amounts to repay pool loan. Discussion that fundraising would continue, but question about possibility of not much interest in new donations if City has already committed to fund remaining amount. Acknowledgement that would be a risk. Pool Committee pledges that if able to close this project to be a big part of the next project, like the Lake upgrades, Community Center or Fire Station, etc. **Motion by J. Anderson to accept Wapasha**

**Construction low bid for Pool project with intention of using future SPW minimum annual promised amount to repay any borrowing done to complete this pool project, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson.** Point of Order by T. Robertson: Why do we have to include the royalty money as a set aside in the motion to accept the low bid? Discussion. **J. Anderson rescinded her initial motion. Motion by J. Anderson to accept the Wapasha Construction low bid for pool construction and authorize the borrowing of the balance to pay off the entire project, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: plans to continue fundraising effort. Vote: Yes 5, No 1 (T. R.). Motion approved.**

**Motion by C. Ekern to send topic of borrowing the remaining \$600,000 + for the Pool project to the Finance Committee for discussion with Ehlers Financial Company about options, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Wheeler. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discussion related to if amount of interested collected on money donated to Pool fund will also be put toward the Pool project...not all amounts were available at this meeting. **Motion by T. Robertson to send this topic to the Finance Committee to review and with complete accurate amounts make a recommendation to the full Council, this amount is also important in order to make a good decision on the borrowing topic with Ehlers Financial Advisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Deer in Park: Clerk reported the owner of the replacement deer feels it is not a good time to move deer in the fall. His recommendation would be Spring 2018. **Motion C. Ekern to apply for license in February and make plans to have deer in Park in March/2<sup>nd</sup> same T. Robertson/Discussion: none/Vote Yes 6 No 0/Motion approved.**

Equipment Committee 10/24/2017 @ 6:30 pm on possible truck purchase for Street department: Chairperson Syverson reported that the Committee reviewed 4 truck, box and plow estimates from 2 area dealers, prepared by R. Ekern/Street Superintendent and decided they wanted to get 2-3 more estimates before making a decision. Street Superintendent will bring back additional information at a future meeting with this Committee. J. Anderson asked if this was a need for this plowing season. Committee members said the truck is 2 months out for any delivery and that would put us at January and at that point the new 2018 CIP dollars would be added and give the account enough for a complete purchase with in the budget. No decision at this meeting.

Building Permit: O. Berg @ 310 Park Road for upgrade of plumbing in bathroom of newly purchased home. Using a licensed plumber, setbacks do not apply as interior work only, estimated cost of \$2,155 and would not require Co. permit as not moving any fixtures. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Clerk report: Flood damaged Community Center asbestos tile removal scheduled for mid-November. Bids for replacement of the floor and ceiling tile are due on 10/26/17. Working to set up a Committee meeting with Township for review of bid estimates, hopeful both entities can take up at their November meeting.

**Motion by W. Cartrette to move into closed session in accordance with S.S. 19.85 (f) to discuss personnel topics, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

**Motion by C. Ekern to come out of closed session, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Robertson/Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. No action was needed from the closed session.**

**Motion to adjourn by W. Cartrette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Robertson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

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Susan Frederixon, City Clerk