

Common Council Meeting minutes, April 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: D. Stephenson, C. Ekern, P. Syverson, J. Anderson, J. Tranberg, T. Wheeler, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney-Mark Radcliffe, TCT-Andrew Dannehy, T. Armitage, B. Simmons, B. Jahr, K. Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer-D. Fremstad.

Public Comment: none.

Motion by D. Stephenson to approve 3/6/2023 council minutes, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson to accept and place on file the minutes from the 2/19/2023 Blair-Taylor Youth Sports meeting, 3/21/2023 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meeting, 3/28/2023 Board of Health meeting, and 4/3/2023 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meeting 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Blair-Preston Fire Department new truck will be coming in June, with the balance due to be split evenly by the City of Blair and the Town of Preston.

Broadway/Pearl project effects on Fire Station-Travis Armitage. The fire department would like to house the fire equipment at the Simmons school gym during the project. The cost per month would be \$1480. We would be looking at approximately 4 months of storage. **Motion by C. Ekern to house fire department equipment at the Simmons property at \$1480 per month, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.** Flood retention is needed for the Community Center. The curb would be removed and a concrete wall and concrete would go from the existing apron on the west side to the south side, which would create needed parking spaces. Need a design and specs for project, then we can send out for bids. This was approved by both the City of Blair and the Town of Preston back in 2019 and would be split 50/50. Brian Simmons will touch up the specs from 2019. **Motion by J. Anderson to get specs done for concrete work and send out for bids, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-. Motion carried.**

Motion by C. Ekern to approve Blair-Preston Fire Department Class B temporary liquor license for Firemen's Dance on May 13, 2023, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Tranberg to approve Soul Sisters Boutique street closure on May 13, 2023 on N Gilbert Street from Broadway to the city parking lot, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern to approve Blair-Preston Fire Department Class B temporary liquor license for the Wheel-R-On-In event on June 8, 2023, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Tranberg to approve Wheel-R-On-In street closure on June 8, 2023 on W. Broadway Street from Dover to S Pearl, on S Urberg Avenue from W. Broadway to alley, and on N. Gilbert Street from W. Broadway to city parking lot, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

2022 Consumer Confidence Report stated that the City of Blair's water is safe and free of any contaminant violations. The report will not be mailed to each resident, as stated in the water/sewer bills that went out in April. The report may be viewed on the city website or at the City Hall. It will be published in the Trempealeau County Times and sent to the WI DNR as well as GVCC, AMPI, and Countryside Lefse.

The Board of Health met to discuss the infestation of bed bugs in the Blair Apartments. These apartments need to be heat treated which involves moving residents to temporary housing for about a week. Bed bugs spread easily, especially with summer coming. The Board of Health Committee is recommending that the Blair Apartments be informed that they have until May 10 to take care of the bed bug issue or the City may pursue abatement. D. Stephenson is a board member of the Blair Apt committee; he stated they have met and discussed heat treatments; the issue is the moving of residents. **Motion by C. Ekern to table until city can meet with the Blair Apartments Board of Directors and Allegiant Property Management, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-5, Nays-0, Abstain-D.S. Motion carried.**

Motion by J. Anderson to accept resolution #2023-04-06 declaring a public emergency pursuant to WI State Statute 62.15(1b) for the sewer main repairs on W Broadway Street from manhole 79 to manhole 82, on N Pearl Street from manhole 21 to manhole 22, and on Cannery Road from manhole 26 to manhole 27. When repairs are finished there will be a majority vote of the council to determine that an emergency no longer exists and that the WI State Statute 62.15(1b) no longer applies and that the Ellingson bid be accepted, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.

Blair-Taylor Sports Youth Group would like the fields in the Blair Park to be prepped for summer recreation games. A small disc can be rented in Arcadia for around \$100-200. This needs to be done soon as games start May 15th. **Motion by J. Tranberg to have fields prepped, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by J. Tranberg to replace the water/sewer truck at a cost of approximately \$65,000 and the 2 ½ ton plow truck at a cost of approximately \$140,000 from the annexation funds, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: D.S.-The City managers need to come up with a need now and wish list for the future so that there are no more emergencies. J.A.-we need to get everything on a rotational basis. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Stephenson to approve the summer hiring for the Blair Aquatic Center as follows: Swim Team Coach-Cathy Mathson, WSI Swim Instructors-Cathy Mathson, Nelly Margan, Leah Kidd, Lauren Kidd, and Noelle Walters all at a starting wage of \$15/hour with

a \$1/hour increase every year they return; Lifeguards-Leah Kidd, Noelle Walters, Karter Kindschy, Ryan Flynn, Lauren Kidd, Davonne Turner, Ben Kidd, Eden Matejka, Katarina Barzcak, and Hunter Wagner all starting at \$10/hour with a \$1/hour increase every year they return; Basket room attendants-Brody Poppe, Hayley Hanson, Lindsey Nerby, and Dani McDole all starting at \$9/hour with a \$1/hour increase every year they return. 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. We are still in need of a pool director. We need someone who is organized and firm; not everyone can be off at the same time, when you are scheduled to work-you will work.

The City is looking at a mass communication system that Blair residents would sign up at no cost to receive alerts such as street closures, weather, snow emergencies, pool closing, etc. **Motion by C. Ekern to contract ReGroup for a 3-year mass communication system for City of Blair residents at a cost of \$1320/year with a \$1000 installation fee, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by J. Tranberg to approve Personnel Policy changes on section XII-training. Training and conferences need to be preapproved before registration by immediate supervisor and supportive documents must be attached to time sheet and on section XVI on personal vehicle use clarification that states the reimbursement of fuel for out-of-town trips is for city vehicle, if necessary, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Stephenson that the Common Council, pursuant to Wis. Sta. 19.85(1)(c), may convene in closed session for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, for the purpose of employee evaluation for Tim Stevens and Peggy Hertzfeldt, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. Motion by P. Syverson to allow D. Fremstad, M. Radcliffe, and J. Rawson to stay in the closed session, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern to reconvene in open session, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern for Tim Stevens probation to end and a \$0.50/hour raise be given effective April 3, 2023 and that Peggy Hertzfeldt probation ends and a \$0.50/hour raise be given effective April 17, 2023, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

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GEC building report given for February and March 2023.

Spring Clean-Up days will be Wednesday, April 26 from 4-7pm and Saturday, April 29 from 9am-1pm at the City Shop, 238 N Spring Street.

Motion by C. Ekern to pay the bills, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: T. Wheeler-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.

Next meeting April 18, 2023.

Thank you to Terry Wheeler for his years of service to the City of Blair.

Motion by J. Tranberg to adjourn at 7:58 pm, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debi Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer