

Re-Organizational Meeting minutes, April 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Oaths of office were taken: Mayor-John Rawson, Ward 1 Alderperson-Chris Ekern, Ward 2 Alderperson-Andrew Stevens, and Ward 3 Alderperson-Paul Syverson

Council attending: D. Stephenson, C. Ekern, P. Syverson, J. Anderson, J. Tranberg, A. Stevens, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: TCT-Andrew Dannehy, Kent Johnson, Connor Kokott, David Donnelly, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer-Peggy Hertzfeldt, Clerk/Treasurer-D. Fremstad.

Public Comment: D. Stephenson thanked Andy, Brian, Joshua, and Tim for their tremendous job with the snow storm. It was a mess and they should be commended. D. Stephenson had a Board of Health update: 50% of the buildings with bed bugs have been heat treated and should be finished up the last part of May or early June. C. Ekern stated that there was then no need to have a joint meeting with this group at this time.

Motion by J. Anderson to approve April 6, 2023 council minutes, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Stephenson to accept and place on file the minutes from the 4/13/2023 Tax, Finance, & Personnel and Police & Ordinance meeting, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Present Standing Committees for 2023-2024 (Chairperson listed first). Board of Health-P. Syverson, J. Anderson, C. Ekern. Park & Recreation-J. Anderson, J. Tranberg, A. Stevens. Police & Ordinance – D. Stephenson, C. Ekern, A. Stevens. Public Property & Buildings-D. Stephenson, C. Ekern, J. Tranberg. Streets, Lights & Equipment-J. Tranberg, P. Syverson, A. Stevens. Tax, Finance & Personnel-J. Anderson, A. Stevens, D. Stephenson. Water & Sewer-P. Syverson, J. Tranberg, J. Anderson. Business & Economic Development-C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, P. Syverson. Library Board-J. Anderson. Fire Department Liaison-P. Syverson, C. Ekern. Joint Fire Board Reps-J. Vehrenkamp, B. Hamble. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve standing committees as presented, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Nomination of Council President: **J. Tranberg nominated Dennis Stephenson, 2nd by C. Ekern.** Mayor called 3 times for other nominations; there were none. **Motion by C. Ekern to close nominations, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Vote: Motion carried with unanimous approval.**

City Assessor is Eric Kleven. City Attorney is Radcliffe Law Office, S. C. City Civil Defense Director is the Police Chief. The official newspaper is the Trempealeau County Times. The official depository bank is Wamandee State Bank. Blair Zoning Committee-Dean Dale, Paul Polege, Carl Axness, Jean Stenberg, and Jim Peterson. Police & Fire Commission-Brad Chown, Melissa Kono, Paul Sannerud. Plan Commission- John Rawson, Chris Ekern, Jill Anderson, Rod Anderson, Brian

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Stenberg, Leslie Moen. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Select dates for 2023-2024 council meetings: 2023-May 1, June 5, July 6, August 7, September 7, October 2, November 6, December 4 and 2024-January 4, February 5, March 4, April 4, April 16, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 1, September 5, October 7, November 7, and December 2. All meetings will begin at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve dates for May 2023-April 2024, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Blair Industrial Development request to extend lot reimbursement for 2 separate individuals who are each purchasing 3 lots for duplexes in the Wildcat division. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve a duplex a year in 3 years' time and that an occupancy permit be required before each reimbursement, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: A. Stevens-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.**

A water rate study is needed for the city. Water rates were last increased in 2008. The Broadway/Pearl project is roughly \$3.5 million fix and we will need to increase both water and sewer rates to help keep up with the amount of money we are investing in our infrastructure. All water and sewer funds are to be self-funded. The sewer increase can be done in house, but the PSC requires an in-depth conventional water study be done before rates can be raised. **Motion by C. Ekern to hire Ehlers to do a conventional water rate study for \$11,500, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried. Motion by J. Anderson to do the sewer rate increase in house, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Solar lights for the walking trail in the park: J. Anderson stated that the solar bid came in at \$55,000-65,000 just for the poles and lights. This bid is quite a bit more than expected. The park committee will look into other less expensive options for solar or going with electrical lights. The Cheese Festival and Blair Foundation are willing to help with the project.

The Blair-Taylor Youth Sports group is concerned with the number of past keys that are still out for the park. They would like to have the park re-keyed and then have keys signed out and returned at the end of the season. All the locks could be keyed the same so that one key would work. The 2 dugouts, the softball and baseball lights, and the concession stand. We should go with someone who can just change out the cylinder instead of the whole lock, if this is going to be a yearly expense. **Motion by J. Tranberg to have the locks changed out and have a sign out system and return in place, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: J.T. – the softball lights shed needs some work. Roll call vote: A. Stevens-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, J. Anderson-yes, P. Syverson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes. Motion carried.**

A joint meeting with the Tax, Finance, & Personnel and the Police & Ordinance Committee was held to discuss personnel policy changes related to the police department. Officer Kokott has been offered a job with the county and these changes in the personnel policy may keep him here.

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D. Stephenson recapped the discussion held. The committees would like to recommend that all full-time, police officers working 12-hour shifts get the allotted number of days rather than hours for their shifts. A day for them is 12 hours; not the 8 hours that everyone else works. This would be used for vacation and sick leave. Holidays would be at regular pay, with an additional day being used for that holiday. You can look at page 9 in the personnel policy to see how this works out for accrual of vacation and sick leave. **Motion by J. Anderson accept changes as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Server Applications for Beverly Johnson at Express Mart and Michael Bundy at Broadway Bar & Grill. **Motion by J. Tranberg to approve server license for Beverly Johnson and Michael Bundy, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Next meeting May 1, 2023.

Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn at 7:13 pm, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debi Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer