

## **Special Council Meeting minutes, June 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Open meeting law requirements were verified as met. Council attending: T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson and Mayor J. Rawson. **Absent:** Alderperson J. Tranberg. Others in attendance: Clerk/Deputy Treasurer S. Frederixon, AMPI/Wayne Jorgenson and Joshua Greenwold/Water/Waste Water Manager.

Discuss/Take Action on Water/Waste Water Committee Meeting recommendations: AMPI Plant upgrades/pre-treatment system plans: Wayne Jorgenson, representing AMPI address the Council. AMPI wants to discuss the waste water treatment ponds that City owns. AMPI would like to take ownership of that property. We want to make waste water improvements and the scale and scope of those improvements would be difficult for AMPI to take on without owning the property that those improvements would be on. Intention is to look at options to add additional pre-treatment to insure we can meet the waste water demands of the plant and stay within the limits that are provided for in the Whitehall and Blair waste water agreements. D. Stephenson asked if that is the land south of the ponds. Jorgenson said basically it is the property the ponds sit on, the blower house and the property on the top of the hill. The old 'ridge and furrow', we don't have an interest in that. D. Stephenson asked if they wanted to go all the way to road. Jorgenson, said I do, we would probably like the entire piece. That would give AMPI the most options to look at going forward. **Council concern is that would mean the City 'brush site' would have to be moved.** C. Ekern mentioned a committee meeting, to check into AMPI ownership, easements, wondered if DNR regulations would allow the current brush site to be moved to the property that previously was the City dump area. **Motion by C. Ekern to look into allowing AMPI to acquire ownership of the property related to the waste water ponds plus easements or ownership of the property under the pipelines related to that system that go to AMPI, J. Anderson maintains C. Ekern's motion as stated above to look at selling the current whey pond property and any needed easements to AMPI for their water treatment purposes with the opportunity to include the property where the City current brush site is if that can be suitably relocated and C. Ekern 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Discussion:** J. Anderson asked if the deal has to include the property where the current brush/organic material site is. Jorgenson said not sure if it would be 'null/void, but the preference is to have the entire site to allow for the most long term options to improve waste water management. Jorgenson explained that once they get to a point all are reasonably sure a deal can be struck with the City, AMPI would begin commissioning engineering related to waste water pre-treatment options. We have had a study done that looks like that might be a 'clarifier' type option, but final engineering would need to be done to identify for sure. They could then lay out a footprint for what future items could happen. We don't want to commit to that until we have good feeling of disposition of property. Estimated at 2-3 acres of property being discussed here. Jorgenson said other entities they have dealt with on this issue, decided they didn't want the liability of the 'ridge and furrow' are and just did a 'quit claim deed', to get that in to AMPI hands, property has been vacated or purchased, also. J. Anderson said she could go along with C. Ekern motion related to the parcels he spoke of and then City Committees can do some exploring about a place for the brush site materials. **Discussion to have Clerk check with Attorney Radcliffe how the process would go with sale of City property, Committee recommendation to full Council or would Plan Commission need to be involved.** D. Stephenson had question, about getting rid of easements does the City have anything back there across the tracks, that we would need easements to gain access to? C. Ekern said there needs to be investigating done for the

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easements related to possibly City owned property affected by loss of them in this area and possible relocation of the current 'brush site', but this motion will help us move forward. J. Greenwold said there are 2 City water lines that go up the pines to the ponds and easements would have to be considered by M. Radcliffe. Jorgenson said it might be as easy as simply naming AMPI in the easements so both entities can maintain their interests. **Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action: 6/6/2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes, **Motion by P. Syverson to approve as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: None. Vote Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on par-time seasonal park hires, J. Anderson reported, Personnel Committee interviewed 2 gentlemen for part time positions in our Park to replace Brian Stenberg, who resigned and also to cover for a medical leave this summer. Our recommendation is we hire both Zack Nitek and Cain Fremstad at \$12.00 per hour for part time park help and other little projects as needed around the City. **Motion by T. Wheeler to accept the Committees recommendation to hire both Zack Nitek and Cain Fremstad at \$12.00 per hour for 2022 park season, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: Question about age needed to mow and weed whack, Anderson answered 16 as stated by the State Workforce Development site, and these two meet that requirement. C. Ekern requested organized and documented training be done by Park Manager on all equipment being used by employees, Clerk verified yes that would be done. J. Anderson said there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> applicant that withdrew before interviews. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, P. Syverson/yes, J. Anderson/yes, T. Wheeler/yes. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action: Server license applications, D. Stephenson recused self and left the room during this discussion. Clerk Frederixon reported there are 3 applications in your packets. Molly Berzinski which includes a completed background check by Police Chief with no indicators for denial. Sally Fieber and Suzanne Bradley we have not received background check information from the Police Chief, both are renewals, both passed last year, wondered if might approve Bradley and Fieber contingent on a background check with no indicators for denial? **Motion by C. Ekern to approve Molly Berzinski as presented and Bradley and Fieber contingent on no negative findings in completed background checks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

After Police and Fire Commission formation approval by the Common Council: Per Mayor J. Rawson, after much research, thought and consideration... I am prepared to present the list of 2022-2023 City of Blair Police and Fire Commission: **At Mayors direction:** these members have been given City Ordinance and State Statutes on the Commission, **they have been asked by the Mayor if they would accept an appointment and have all accepted, with the understanding it is contingent on approval at this meeting.**

Member 1 year term ending April 2023

Pastor Paul Sannerud

Member 2 year term ending April 2024

Jean Stenberg

Member 3 year term ending April 2025

Brad Chown

**Pastor Paul Sannerud:** Well know Pastor, Leader and member of City Organizations, experienced in facilitating discussions and resolutions to important and sometimes difficult issues.

**Ms. Jean Stenberg:** Longtime resident, with much service to City in many decision making positions, respected educator, much personal experience with Fire department issues. **Mr. Brad Chown:** 23 years' experience on local City Fire Department, holding position of firefighter/EMT-Basic (20 years), 1<sup>st</sup> Captain (2 years), 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief (10 years), and EMS Division Chief (7 years). As a City Administrator (9 years), I have negotiated several collective bargaining agreements, been involved with several officer related disciplinary actions, and been involved with hiring 3 Chiefs of Police and a Fire Chief.

J. Anderson asked if this Commission is 'on call' basis. Mayor Rawson yes, as needed. **Motion by P. Syverson that we affirm, Mayor Rawson's appointments as stated at this meeting to the City Police and Fire Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, P. Syverson/yes, J. Anderson/yes, T. Wheeler/yes. Motion approved. J. Anderson stated thank you to them for willingness to sit on this commission.**

Discuss/Take Action: Daveed LLC d/b/a Barnyard Tavern liquor license clarification. Clerk Frederixon reported this has to do with the Barnyard Tavern liquor license that was approved at an earlier meeting with all the others. After D. Donnelly pointed out he was happy on the approval because he had added to the 'premise' section of his application side of building/alley and front of building up to 4 feet of sidewalk. After review of this by City Attorney, we are not allowed to approve those areas as it would conflict with current Ordinances prohibiting 'public consumption'. This portion of the liquor license on advice of Attorney Radcliffe should be revoked to address this. **Motion by J. Anderson to rescind the Council approval related to the portion of the Barnyard Tavern's 2022-2023 Beverage License Application, that states ' side of building alley and front of building up to 4 feet, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, P. Syverson/yes, J. Anderson/yes, T. Wheeler/yes. Motion approved.**

**Motion to adjourn by J. Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved**

**End time: 7:07 pm**

Susan Frederixon, City of Blair Clerk/Deputy Treasurer