

## **Common Council Meeting minutes, November 7, 2024**

Mayor Rawson called the Common Council meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Oath of Office was taken by Tyler Palkowski, who is replacing J. Tranberg and will serve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward until the term is up for re-election.

Council attending: A. Stevens, T. Palkowski, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney Mark Radcliffe, Andrew Dannehy-Trempealeau County Times, Tasha Palkowski, BP Fire Dept-Travis Armitage, Tim Robertson, & Liaison Jay Vehrenkamp, David Walter-SEH, Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Agenda was posted on 11/4/2024 at City Hall, Post Office, Waumandee Bank, & City website.

**Motion by P. Syverson to approve agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: none.

**Motion by J. Anderson to approve October 7, 2024 Common Council minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Motion by P. Syverson to accept and place on file the minutes for the 10/1/2024, 10/8/2024, 10/10/2024, 10/29/2024 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meetings, and the 10/28/2024 Police & Ordinance meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**2024 Holiday parade on December 7, 2024. The parade will run the same route as last year, the reindeer and Christmas tree will be at the Community Center, and the Fun Run/Walk will benefit Autism Awareness. Motion by C. Ekern to approve the parade and road closure, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Syverson. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Blair-Preston Fire Department Liaison-Jay Vehrenkamp recommended the City increase the fire protection budget \$5000; this would be a \$10,000 total increase as the Town of Preston would also increase their budget by the same amount. Chief Armitage stated that the Fire Department is not fully funded with tax dollars; \$20,000 comes from fund-raising within the Fire Department.

Dave Walker, SEH brought before the council an amendment to the engineering contract. The low bidder was new to the game and the end product had a good result. The project took much longer than anticipated and required more help from SEH. SEH is asking for an additional \$17,000. Attorney Radcliffe has never seen this kind of request and asked why a change order was not put in. **Motion by P. Syverson to table the Tappen Road extra fees until more information is given from SEH, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.** **Motion by C. Ekern to pay AFP #2 to Trinity Farms Excavating, LLC the remaining balance of \$5,994.63 for the Tappen Road project, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D.**

**Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

GEC public right-of-way contract. GEC would review any permits that were brought before the City and provide a map of said utilities being put in. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve the GEC contract , 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Mayor Rawson opened the public hearing for the City of Blair 2025 budget. J. Anderson recapped the proposed budget. Revenues were increased by server applications increasing from \$17 to \$25, pool passes: single \$80, family \$160, non BTSD \$200. Wage increases averaged 2.8%. Health insurance increased 9%. Left with only \$67,633 for CIP projects: 2 dam motors for \$24,206, \$15,000 for fire department, \$9,000 for police department, \$31,683 put into contingency. Safety issues looked at: shop doors at city shop, new breaker box for sign shed, and money for making more barricades. Talked about taking \$3000 out of contingency and putting in fire protection budget. **Motion by P. Syverson to reduce contingency by \$3000 and put \$3000 more into fire protection budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-abstain, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by J. Anderson to close public hearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Motion by P. Syverson to approve the 2025 budget with the fire protection amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

The Personnel Policy changes recommended were: police officers working 12-hour shifts will work a holiday at regular pay and have another day off instead, a health insurance stipend of \$4000 for those over 26 with family plan insurance may elect to have this paid out over the 26 pay periods, and meal reimbursement with maximums for breakfast of \$10, lunch of \$15, dinner of \$25 (must show itemized receipt and may not include tip or alcohol). **Motion by A. Stevens to approve personnel policy changes, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

The Police & Ordinance Committee was notified of a written complaint from a citizen received by the Police Chief. The Police Chief was instructed to contact Allied Cooperative through a letter and ask for an air/dust collection system to be put in. The Police Chief will get back to the committee with their reply.

Attorney Radcliffe drafted changes to Chapter 36 on the Traffic Code to include the Trans 305 WI Admin Code and Chapter 63 on Property Number System to prepare for the 911 addressing system. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve ordinance changes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by T. Palkowski. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

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Attorney Radcliffe drafted a new ordinance for Sexual Offenders Residency. He instructed the council to look through what he has drafted and to put it on the December agenda. For this ordinance to hold up in court; the City would need a designated sign at every school bus stop. Churches would fall under public community centers. A map would need to be made. **Motion by C. Ekern to table Ordinance 71 for further legal review, 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Server applications for Riley Teeples. **Motion by A. Stevens to approve server application, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

2025 Spring nomination papers were handed out to J. Rawson, C. Ekern, A. Stevens, P. Syverson  
**Motion by D. Stephenson to pay the bills R193, #62106-62212, ST46, V1200-1227, WI 261-263, BT7-2024, ETF 11-2024, ETF 12-2024, efts 100424, 101824, & 110124, Def Comp 195-197, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Roll Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

**Motion by A. Stevens to adjourn at 7:20 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Debra Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer