

Common Council Meeting minutes, February 3, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: T. Palkowski, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Attorney Mark Radcliffe, Andrew Dannehy-Trempealeau County Times, Dave Mattison, Dave Quarne, Mike Ressel, Holly Anderson, Tekla Baken, Deb Pattee, Rosemary Lee, Clerk/Treasurer-Debi Fremstad.

Agenda was posted on 1/30/2025 at City Hall, Post Office, Waumandee Bank, & City website.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve agenda, 2nd by T. Palkowski. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: none.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve January 6, 2025 Common Council minutes, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson to accept and place on file the minutes of the 1/14/2025 Police & Ordinance meeting, the 1/22/2025 Tax, Finance, & Personnel meeting, the 1/22/2025 Water & Sewer meeting, and the 1/23/2025 Streets, Lights, & Equipment meeting, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Dave Mattison discussed the need for new lighting for the truck & tractor pull at Cheese Fest. The Fest wants to place 2 poles on the City of Blair/Town of Preston property across from the Community Center. Dave already has the Town of Preston approval to move forward and explore options to come up with a plan. Once they have a plan they will come back to the Council. The Council was okay with Cheese Fest moving forward and getting information on light poles.

Ressel/Quarne storage property on Gilbert Street. Mike Ressel asked for another extension. **Motion by D. Stephenson to grant a 12-month extension to Ressel/Quarne property storing sand mine equipment, 2nd C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Mike Ressel is asking for an electrical easement behind his property on 108 W. Broadway. Attorney approved easement. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve the NSP electrical power easement for parcel #206-00042-0000, 2nd by T. Palkowski. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Deb Pattee & Tekla Baken presented a plan through RUTH for a community garden in Blair. There is a grant available for this expense. They are looking for land for this garden. This would be run by volunteers. If the garden is on raised beds the land between the trailer park and railroad on N. Gilbert could work. If not on raised beds, C. Ekern suggested the Bass Pond across from Lake Henry. This area will be looked at to see if it will work and they will come back to the Council.

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L & S Larson Properties certified survey map. The duplex at 1101/1103 E Maple Street has been surveyed and Larson hopes to sell one side of the duplex as a twin home. Attorney Radcliffe has looked at the CSM and it meets the City's code requirement. We are just approving the CSM, they still need to meet state code. A building inspector will need to sign off on the property before a sale can occur. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve the certified survey map for the property at 1101/1103 E Maple Steet, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

The Tax, Finance, & Personnel committee is requesting action on a residency waiver. Officer Payton Wood is requesting a residency waiver as he is moving. The residence is further in mileage, but the time response will remain the same according to Chief Johnson. **Motion by D. Stephenson to grant the residency waiver based on the need for qualified employees and retaining current employees, 2nd T. Palkowski. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.** The committee would also request action on putting some of the City's funds into a money market account (MMA). This cash management account would help us be fully covered and insured. **Motion by C. Ekern to move funds into the MMA based on auditor's recommendation, 2nd by T. Palkowski. Discussion: none. Roll vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by P. Syverson to approve the vouchers #62354-62451-62353, R196, V1264-1281, ST47, WI 268-269, BT1-2025, ETF2-2025, efts112924, efts011025, efts012425, Def Comp 201-202, EBC23-24 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, T. Palkowski-yes. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting: March 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn at 7:10 pm, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-4, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debra Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer