

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, was duly called, noticed, held and conducted in the manner required by the Common Council and the pertinent Wisconsin Statutes on July 8, 2019. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor A. Knutson; Alderpersons-W. Cartrette, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, M. Lisowski, C. Ekern, Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson, Trempealeau County Times.

Public Comment: None

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 6/3/2019&. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve 6/3/19 minutes as presented, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-6, No-0. Motion approved.**

Water Reservoir, 5 year, \$5,000 cleaning & inspection discussion- Clerk reported this is a requirement by the WDNR but at the \$5,000 Council approval threshold. Water Superintendent searched other companies, found this one to be lowest cost and recommended by Whitehall. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Rita Tranberg Memorial Committee request to have famous entertainer, Chris Kroeze do an acoustic performance, Saturday, September 7th, 2019 of the memorial this year. The Park would be blocked off similar to when the Fireworks is done. Sherry Kelly Benefit organizer gave general information about the event and the City Council was in full support. City will provide police coverage similar to Fireworks, Public Works staff assistance with traffic signage, Park readiness, etc. as needed.

Rita Tranberg Memorial Application for Temporary Class B liquor license/**Motion by W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Reports: Joint with Whitehall, Wastewater Advisory Board Meeting, 6/10/2019/T. Wheeler Chairperson, reported AMPI Plant manager gave overview of current wastewater numbers. The numbers were now at historic lows, which was the goal for everyone. He had some graphs and tables showing data. He explained AMPI hired a contractor to do a flocculation procedure to the whey ponds to improve them quickly. This process did work, and has now been discontinued until further analysis is completed on the inlet. Moving forward AMPI will be monitoring the inlet on a daily basis. With the new information we can determine if other measures will be needed to ensure we are compliant into the winter months. AMPI is still waiting for a Probst pond study to be completed, and will share information when available. AMPI is actively working to prevent any future problems. Whitehall committee commented they were pleased with the information, effort and results AMPI/City had given.

Lake Dredge Project Committee report/K. Lisowski Chairperson: Committee has been meeting regularly for quite a while. S.E.H. is 90 % done with their portion of contract work, about \$10,000 - \$12,000 remaining, set aside to develop constructions documents when needed. Have received WDNR dredge permit, so ready to go, but before we can proceed, the next step is to find out what the City can commit to the project, initial dredging and planning to re-activate City Lake District. Committee needs to find out, what is City's long term commitment to maintaining the Lake after dredge long-term? Letter has been drafted to send to County to re activate the Lake District Commission, agreeing to be on Commission are Tim Robertson, Jill Anderson and Debi Fremstad. Hydraulic Dredge is estimated \$2.1 million. This commission would be deciding on any type of tax levy related to the Lake District, recommendation of any levy amount would be for maintaining the lake health. Committee needs to have financing secured before can move forward with any type of fundraising campaign. Our Park has a huge impact on our economy, both with revenues and residual community positive impacts. **Motion by M. Lisowski to approve formation of the Lake District Commission group of D. Fremstad, J. Anderson and T. Robertson, ok for Clerk to complete and send the letter from the City to the County Board requesting appointment of these commission members, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Plan Commission Meeting on 6/19/2019/A. Knutson reported: Tammy Long had requested the Plan Commission to consider re-zoning property at W13976 State Road Hwy 95 from Residential-1 to Agricultural 1, as this was her parents property and she is hoping to own all or part of it and would need to have approval to have a horse stable, which is not a permitted use as currently zoned, but is a permitted use in Ag-1 zoned areas. Clerk shared that per the City Assessor there would be no loss of tax revenue if change was made. Attorney Robertson also shared he could see no adverse effects to the City if change was granted. After some discussion and questions, the Plan Commission is recommending to this full Council to approve the rezone of this property as requested. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve re-zone request of property from Residential 1 to Agricultural 1, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

City Public Property & Building Committee w/Township Meeting on 6-27-19, report by Chairperson M. Lisowski: Community Center Bathroom upgrades: After discussions and reviewing information from contractors, part of which was that there was not enough room in the women's restroom to be able to meet full ADA requirements and still have 2 stalls, the joint Committee group unanimously agreed to recommend to both full Boards/Council's to turn both bathrooms in to full ADA compliant unisex bathrooms. The group also agreed and requested Preston Town Board Chairperson, Darrel Nelson to contact Simmon's construction to estimate the cost to do this work and a time frame that it could be done, since this contractor has the Community Center approved BID for work done after flood damage. Community Center cleaning process review: Both entities agreed to change process to ensure cleaning to cover if center is rented both days of weekend, City of Blair, will do a quick check of center and notify Township if there is a need for cleaning on Sunday morning prior to rental event and Township will do cleaning. Placement of Cheese Festival award-recognition case: Both entities agreed the case/cases can be placed on south wall, above 'chair rail' between the window and alley service door. City of Blair Park Shed replacement BIDS: Three BIDS were received: Forward Construction Group/Beloit, WI - \$91,959, Simmons Construction - \$62,000 and French Creek Construction - \$55,715. Mike Lisowski said he would like to add 'attic vents' to the project and approved bid. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve low bid of \$55,715 from French Creek Construction and to request attic vents to be added to bid and to have Clerk turn into City insurance for consideration, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Park Committee Meeting report Chairperson W. Cartrette reported: Pool news is there is a credit from Wapasha for \$ 9, 642.87 (reimbursement); Request to pay Wapasha Invoice # 13 for work done March 2019 in amount of \$65,645.28. **Motion by P. Syverson to pay invoice #13 as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.** 2019 July/August - Carrico Aquatics Water Management Resource proposal for professional assistance on a monthly basis: A tool to help our pool staff learn and manage the pool long term. City staff will be doing the management on a daily basis, but especially in this initial year to ensure our staff is trained and able to manage pool chemical systems correctly. Proposal includes consultation upon request, 14 point water analysis every month and comprehensive analysis report. This company has already proven its expertise and value during the pool start up process, by assisting us with chemical advice and water quality management, preparation for County and State inspections as well as pool cleaning equipment at no cost to the City. This company is recommended by Arcadia Aquatic Center and Park Committee would like to look into discussions with Carrico about chemical purchase that might include water treatment chemicals, which may be able to include this type of water management service. **Motion by M. Lisowski to approve proposal as presented, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: Mike. L. the expectation is that City staff will be handling the day to day operations of the water management. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.** Park Committee has had some comments from community members related to pool scheduling issues, open hours, etc. so we have a meeting scheduled to go through pool operations up to this point, with Director Mathson. Discussions on things that worked well, things that can be improved on, etc., planning for 2020 season.

Building Permits: Kailee & Brian Jahr @ 955 E. Taft St. for a fence; Nathan Lambright @ 518 E. Olson St. for a fence; Roald Berg @ 319 E. Broadway St. for driveway; Scott Semb @ 509 E. Center St. for a pool; Patrick Tulus @ 325 S. Urberg Ave. for shed: **Motion by P. Syverson to approve Jahr, Lambright and Berg permits as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Motion by J. Anderson to approve Semb permit if setbacks meet requirement after City Clerk verifies them and there is authorization from landlord to have pool on property, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Motion by P. Syverson to table Tulus permit, until more information is known about type of siding and foundation of building and check on setback amounts, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: request for Clerk to research information needed and bring back to Council. Also, request to have Ordinance Committee look at requiring accessory buildings have siding match the primary home. Vote: Yes: 6, No 0. Motion approved.** Fire Permits: Jared Peterson @ 110 E. 5th St.; Derek Griffey @ 828 E. Olson St.; Peter & Kristie Gill @ 636 E. Olson St.; Tom Johnson @ 115 N. Pearl St.; Sharon Thompson @ 408 W. Broadway St.; Mercedes Tacey @ 215 E. Fifth St.; Jim Peterson @ 616 E. Olson St./Action items. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve all fire permits as presented, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Motion approved.**

Clerk Report: Miss Hulda, our female deer gave birth on 6-20-19, to a healthy male fawn, named Magnus, which in Norwegian means "Great". We were not really expecting this, but were told that she may be with fawn at purchase, but not likely. Jim Nyen, Park Superintendent is pretty proud as we all are. He is absolutely adorable, but will need to be moved prior to rut season as recommended by USDA; Deputy Clerk Treasurer Debi Fremstad, will be attending the Municipal Clerk/Treasurer Institute, her 3rd and final annual, full week training, the week of July 15th. She will have achieved her certificate from the University of WI Green Bay as a recognized leader in Municipal Clerk/Treasurer education. Clerk/Treasurer Frederixon has also completed this training. It is always a good idea to invest in training of employees and the City of Blair supports that.

Present Vouchers for review and approval: **Motion W. Cartrette to approve the vouchers as presented, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: C. Ekern-Yes, P. Syverson-Yes, J. Anderson-Yes, T. Wheeler-Yes, W. Cartrette and M. Lisowski-Yes. Motion approved**

Next Council meeting is August 5, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Motion C. Ekern to enter into closed session 19.85(1)(b)(e) for purpose of negotiation of possible purchase of public properties and/or Personnel related issues, 2nd M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-6, No-0. Motion approved

Motion C. Ekern to return to open session, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-6, No-0. Motion approved

Action taken out of closed session: **Motion by W. Cartrette to decline offer from property owner, Sandy Schroeder, to sell property at 120 Broadway Street, Blair WI to City, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Motion P. Syverson to adjourn meeting, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-6, No-0. Motion approved