

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2018 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 9, 2018. 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, Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson, Blair Press and Trempealeau County Times. Alderperson C. Ekern was absent.

Public Comment: City resident, Ellsworth Tranberg commented that the semi parked on the 500 block of Broadway is dangerous; it's very hard to see around and causes vehicles to move over center line to safely get around it - could easily cause accidents/Campers stored for long times on City Streets are also very irritating. They should be made to be stored off the City Streets, they are also difficult to see oncoming traffic and block the view/City resident, Joe Arneson commented that the Police/City needs to monitor and fine those properties that have unregistered vehicles, long unmown lawns and junky properties. Cheesefest is coming up and it would be a good time to jump on that again. Mayor thanked them for their comments.

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 6/4/ & Special Meeting 6/27/2018. Special meeting minutes are not ready for review at this time. **Motion P. Syverson to approve 6/4/18 minutes as presented, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Jordan Bradley Appeal for re-consideration for denial of Bartender License: S. Frederixon explained Bradley had applied for a bartender license in June 2018, he did supply the City with appropriate application and approved certificate from State of WI for successful completion of Alcohol Seller-Server test. Jordan was denied per the WI Statute 125.04(5) (b) which states "no license or permit related to alcohol beverages may be issued under this chapter to any person who has habitually been a law offender." Jordan's application appeared to fall under that category and therefore was denied. Jordan told the Council that he has been bartending for the last 3 months, which is allowed with a licensed server on premise, with no trouble. He would like to be given a chance to work and do a good job. Peterson's Bar, manager Michelle Hull shared that Jordan has been doing an excellent job and should be given a change to work and improve/Council discussion showed concern for Jordan's past recorded offenses and were not sure bartending was a good environment for that history, but also felt everyone deserves a chance to improve. **Motion W. Cartrette to allow approval of a bartender this 2018-2019 season, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote: P. Syverson-abstain/W. Cartrette-yes/J. Anderson-no/M. Lisowski-no/T. Wheeler-yes. Vote was a tie-Mayor voted yes. Motion approved.**

SPW/Source Energy C.U.P. compliance issues & underground slurry updates: City Zoning Inspector J. Michael Nied of S.E.H. reviewed the information from the 7/6/2018 inspection of S. E. Blair, Hwy. 53 site. It is the Zoning Inspectors opinion that Source Energy is making a good faith effort at resolving the areas of non-compliance noted in the May 11, 2018 memorandum. A follow up inspection in approximately 30 days would be prudent to confirm continued compliance. **Motion W. Cartrette to approve 30 day inspection of site as recommended/2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.** Underground slurry system update: Clint Napton, SPW explained they have installed all pipes, finishing up the infeed and outfeed structures and reclaimed the pad area and are finishing up with electrical work. They are expecting to run water through next Friday, if all goes well hopefully approximately 7/23 we can be pumping sand and be done with trucking by end of July/early August. It is a brand new project and things don't always go as planned but they are working hard to implement the slurry.

Resident request for speed hump placement back on Tappen Coulee Road: Russel Hurst requested the Council re-install the speed humps at the Tappen/Olson Street area. They did help and without them he fears for his kid's safety. Further discussion considering a 4 way stop at the intersection of Olson and Tappen was heard. **Motion W. Cartrette to have Clerk/Treasurer research if ok for us to put stop signs in that area, and if ok then put them in, 2nd M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Street light pricing for Olson Street & City Parking Lot: Xcel Energy has been contacted, Xcel would not be able to do the City parking lot that would have to be done by an independent electrical contractor. Xcel is still working on the Olson Street light information. Request for Clerk to make inquiries of local electrical contractors for City lot lighting.

Large Shelter concrete repair topic: Clerk/Treasurer reported that the Park staff did a water test on the area they thought needed looking at and the water ran correctly, away from the building. Park Committee Chairperson, W. Cartrette explained the correct area in need of repair. Park Superintendent will have Simmon's construction, who did a different area of new concrete last year look at the issue and suggest a plan to upgrade.

Reports: Tax, Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting on 6/13/2018: J. Anderson, Committee Chairperson reported the Committee has been discussing changing the City employee Personnel Policy related to sick and personal time. Basically, changing from the current vacation policy of working a full year and then getting a lump sum of vacation time depending on the length of service on January 1st, to an accrual per pay period policy. They would also change the current sick hour policy of 8 hours earned at the beginning of each month to an accrual policy per pay period. Essentially no changes in the amount of each benefit, just in the policy on when the time would be available to use and how much can be carried over at the end of each year. Currently employees have to use entire previous year balance of vacation hours prior to February 1 or lose any remaining hours. The proposed new policy is to eliminate the February 1 date and allow up to 2 weeks/80 hours of vacation time to be carried over after 12/31 annually. Current and proposed language was distributed to Council members. Also, a change to the current policy on page 4, to state if employees are unable to make their shift they need to call in to the City Office at least 2 hours before the beginning of the scheduled shift. **Motion M. Lisowski to approve as presented with effective date of 1/1/2019, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: Clerk stated for clarification- January 1, 2019 all employees will received the 1, 2, 3, or 4 week vacation benefit, per length of service, to be used in 2019 and also then begin accruing per pay period, with the understanding, on 1/1/2020 they are only allowed to carry over a maximum of 80 hours/2 weeks of vacation hours. Other discussion: Council requested Clerk go over changes with employees ASAP. Vote: Yes -5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Police-Ordinance Committee Meeting report: C. Ekern/Chairperson absent. Committee and Clerk reviewed the agenda items as follows: Cheese Festival police coverage was discussed and the Committee requested Chief Wheeler to meet with the Cheese Festival Committee for some insight into their thoughts on the topic. Clerk Frederixon shared she knew the Chief had contacted them and a meeting was being set up, but nothing to report at this time. Ordinance Chapter 38 had been discussed with instructions to Chief Wheeler to gather information from other communities on how they handle these vehicles. Clerk Frederixon shared, Chief is working on this and will soon be sending that information to the Committee Chairperson for review. Animal excreta was brought up as a problem in the City. City Attorney Robertson reported there is a current Ordinance 32 that states how the City will handle complaints of this nature, and Committee agrees that is enough, no changes needed. Burn pit abuse also discussed, Attorney Robertson reported the City has Ordinance 19 in place with a penalty section for those that violate the policy, but there is not provision in that Ordinance for permitting. The idea of requiring City residents that wish to burn to obtain a permit for a \$10 charge was discussed.

Motion J. Anderson to send back to Ordinance Committee to decide on details of fire pit permit, such as fee, if it is annual, etc. and have Attorney Robertson add a provision for a permit in Ordinance 19, 2nd W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.

Park Committee Meeting report Chairperson W. Cartrette reported, there continues to be good progress on the pool. We have 2 bills that need to be paid: Pay Application # 7 from Wapasha, Construction Co. Inc. for work done through 6/30/2018 for \$136,320.25. Burbach Aquatics has reviewed the application and recommends approval and payment. Invoice dated 7/3/2018 from Burbach Aquatics, Inc. for Professional Service & Reimbursable items related to our Pool project through June 20, 2018/Phase III, for \$309,109.94. This is the invoice the City had been informed of and agreed to in November 2017 within the contract with Burbach Aquatics, Inc. **Motion P. Syverson to approve both bills as presented with money coming out of designated pool project fund, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.** Reminder from Chairperson Cartrette, that all the beautiful upgraded aesthetics were donated by the Waneks at approximately \$130,000 to \$140,000 value & beauty added to the facility. Park Committee meeting scheduled on July 19th for Lake Henry topic.

Plan Commission Meeting on 6/27/2018. Chairperson W. Cartrette reported the agenda was related to Hi Crush Blair's request to extend the 3 month temporary trucking amendment to the current C.U.P. Hi Crush reported they have seen improvements from the Rail Company, but they are just not quite there yet. Hi Crush reported they have made significant investments in infrastructure to assure optimal safety and convenience of the trucking to the outside public. Hi Crush is hopeful and expecting they will not need another extension for this trucking. **Motion R. Anderson to recommend the City Council approve this extension as presented, 2nd B. Stenberg. Discussion: J. Arneson expressed hope that Hi Crush would continue to assist the City with the Lake Henry project. City Park Committee members commented that Hi Crush has been great to help, attended all meeting and willing to help as able with the Lake project and any other environmental projects the City might have in the future. Vote: Yes – unanimous of all attending members, No-0. Motion carried.**

Special Council Meeting held on 6/27/2018 P. Syverson, Council President reported agenda items, Hi Crush trucking C.U.P. amendment request was approved. Deer in the Park was discussed and sent back to the Park Committee at the suggestion of Eric Huseboe, local deer expert for more planning and discussion. Chamber of Commerce request to use the bass pond for a flea market event for a weekend was also approved. Municipal logo upgrade by C. Ekern was tabled until Ekern could bring drafts. Blair Haus Ordinance violation appeal was taken up and finalized. The minutes will be for approval at August 6, 2018 meeting.

Public Property & Building Committee w/ Township on 7/28/2018: Chairperson T. Wheeler reported, Committee reviewed Community Center flood insurance information, made plans to get work done, such as sheet rock, new cabinets & counter top, a serving counter, scrape and repaint bathroom stalls, some wiring to include more efficient placement for events and some insulation, new floors and ceiling also. Town of Preston topic: consider charging ambulance service rent for storage of ambulance in shed across from Fire Department. After discussion, rent will not be charged as the ambulance service already pays electric and heating bills and we are thankful for them in our community. City of Blair only agenda item: Countryside Coop land parcel topic: Frank Brenner C.E.O. of Countryside Coop stated the Coop's mission is to work with local communities. After removal of the feed mill on Gilbert Street, 2 small parcels of land remain in that area that they thought might be of use to the City. They would sell at a very reasonable price, if City has interest, or would consider a land swap of some kind. Tax statements show one parcel valued at \$14,600 and the other at \$3,300. City not interested in small parcel, but may be interested in larger parcel. Committee could not think of any appropriate land swap options. Tabled until more information is available. Will meet again on this topic.

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Building Permits: Nate & Hannah Dahl @ 1021 Taft Street for installation of a pool; Miscellaneous Pool installations within City Boundaries; Lannie Howe for driveway & pool; Action items – **Information Only**: WE Energies/Owen Berg @ 310 S. Park Road for installation of a new natural gas line; Matt Oldendorf @ 126 E. 5th Street to replace basement window. **Motion P. Syverson to approve all, with the addition of the Dahl pool needs to be 10' from primary structure, 2nd W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved.**

Clerk Report: 6/15/2018 after rental of Schroeder Shelter for his 40th Wedding Anniversary, Mr. Larry Jorgenson stopped in to the office only to let us know that the Schroeder Shelter was GREAT, it was nice and clean and your guys do a great job ☺ The week of July 15th through 20th, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer- Debi Fremstad will be attending the 2 of 4 years of continuing education at the University of WI Green Bay, 2018 Clerk & Treasurers Institute. Business Communication, Social Media, Records Management, State Sales Tax Requirements, Cash Management & Investments, Financial Planning & Levy Limits, Borrowing & Debt Management, Influence without Authority, Implementing Technology, and Strategies for maximizing revenue & collections and Cyber Security classes are some of classes on her schedule. FEMA 2017 flood assistance applications have been reviewed and I am starting to get information back on if we are allowed any reimbursement. I applied for 7 categories and we met the requirements for 3. We will be receiving: Total FEMA \$ 5,968.32 –Good work Clerk/Treasurer Frederixon ☺ There are no more outstanding Categories for us from the July 2017 Flood event.

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

Next Council meeting is August 6, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Motion W. Cartrette to enter into closed session 19.85(1)(f) for purpose of employee personnel & medical leave discussion, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved

Motion W. Cartrette to return to open session, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved

No action was taken after returning to open session.

Motion J. Anderson to adjourn meeting, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-5, No-0. Motion approved

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer