

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, June 3, 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 June 3, 2019. Mayor A. Knutson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Alderpersons P. Syverson, W. Cartrette, J. Anderson, M. Lisowski and C. Ekern; Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixon, Attorney A. Robertson and Trempealeau County Times Absent: T. Wheeler & Attorney A. Robertson.

Open Meeting Law compliance was verified

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 5/6/19. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Public Comment: None

Motion by C. Ekern to open the City of Blair 2019-2020 Liquor License Public Hearing, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. There was no public comment on liquor licenses at that time so we continued on with meeting and will address later.

Application for Class B Liquor License for July 3, 2019 Blair Fireworks Event. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

City of Blair 2018 Consumer Confidence Water Report: City Clerk/Treasurer Frederixon reported that the City water is sampled on a daily basis, sent into approved laboratories and tested throughout the 2018 year. All results are monitored by the WI DNR for acceptable levels of any possible minerals/contaminants. Our City Water program is managed by Bob Fraust, Water/Sewer Superintendent. Happy to say all results were within acceptable levels for our City water. This information will be published in the Trempealeau County Times, posted for public viewing at the City Office, on the City Website and sent to major industries like Grandview Care Center, Associated Milk Producers Inc. and Countryside Lefse Company. **Motion by C. Ekern to publish the CCR as presented, 2nd M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Compliance Maintenance Annual Report/CMAR-City Waste Water Annual Report: This report is required by the WI DNR and requires answers to questions about our Waste Water revenues, replacement funds to cover maintenance (this score was good due to the Council implementing a 5 year minimal % increase annually on Waste Water rates), etc., our energy efficiencies (which was a good score due to new 2018 main lift station) and Maintenance programs such as the videoing of sewer lines, infiltration monitoring, root removal, manhole inspections and lift station operations. The City's Waste Water system is managed by Bob Fraust Water, Sewer Superintendent. Happy to share the City scored the highest possible score of 4.0 Grade Point Average, which requires no action. This report needs to be approved by the City Council by resolution and then sent with resolution to the DNR for final approval.

Resolution # 6-3-2019 City of Blair CMAR on 2018 data: **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion Approved.**

WI Retirement consideration for current part time officer during interim of new hire. Currently the City has 120 police hours set per week, with only 2 officers or 80 non-overtime hours between them. That leaves shifts to be filled in order to maintain the current coverage schedule. Since we ended our part time officer coverage, we have very few available to us. Trempealeau County Sheriff department officer, Randy Jenson has been good to fill shifts often, he is a Blair graduate and familiar with the City and has long term police experience. He is really the only P.T. officer offering to help Blair continue coverage during this time. He is at the point of WRS eligibility, which is 10.72 % or an approximate \$112.87 per month cost to the City if we add him to the WRS. This is only paid on hours worked so, when he does not work, example if shifts are filled by new officer, no retirement is paid for him. Currently, shifts are being filled with overtime hours which is at a much higher hourly wage (more than

double) than part time police wage, the City also is paying the 10.72 % for hour officer's overtime wages. Question: Consider approval of having Officer Jenson added to our WRS plan for hours worked in part time capacity. Part time Officer Chad Halverson is currently approved for Blair WRS, but due to availability is unable to assist with part time in our City. Officer Jenson, currently is on the WRS program with Trempealeau County Sheriff's and Strum Police departments. Council President Syverson stated he believes WRS rules state once someone is on the plan they are always on and all hours are added together from all employers, so he probably should have automatically, already been on our plan. Clerk Frederixon has researched and this is not the case, each employer is independent with consideration of the 600/1200 hour rule, Syverson agreed after looking at information provided. Therefore as Council requested we are re-visiting this topic. After much discussion and concern over correct amount of coverage needed for our City...**Motion by W. Cartrette to allow WRS benefit to be offered to Officer Jenson, in an effort to be fiscally responsible and avoid overtime and to include the discussion information as part of the motion, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: Council agrees in general to: during a 2 week pay period, 50 hours Chief Wheeler & Officer Spaeth and 20 Jenson/or other part time person. And to let Chief Wheeler know it is ok to go with 100 hours if thinks there are shifts that can be adjusted to limit during this interim time without a 3rd officer. Vote: Yes 3, No 2 (M. Lisowski/J. Anderson). Motion approved.**

Hen License Application from Michael McHugh @ 956 E. Taft St. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

CDBG Street & Utility Grant project update: per S.E.H. engineering Gerke Excavating intends to start work on the project by installing a dewatering system along Main Street on June 3rd. The dewatering system will draw down the groundwater to below the proposed watermain trench elevation. They will then start watermain installation on Main Street on or about June 10th. Gerke Excavating's preliminary schedule shows approximately 10 weeks of underground utility installation before starting road reconstruction. A letter was mailed to adjacent residents on May 23rd informing them of the project and giving them contact information to call with any questions.

Park Committee meeting 5/16/19: **Lake Henry Dredging Project update: Per S.E.H. Engineering** Wisconsin DNR is currently evaluating the dredging permit and we expect a decision on or about June 15th. Corps of Engineers has waived jurisdiction (no COE permit needed). City Attorney is preparing temporary construction easements along the railroad tracks for the hydraulic discharge pipeline and/or temporary haul road. Upon completion of the temporary construction easements Lake Committee members and/or City Staff will need to obtain signatures on the easements. Lake Committee has continued discussions regarding outside fundraising. Lake Committee has asked that the Finance Committee review available City Funding. The next Committee meeting will be June 27th at 6:30pm. Per Park Chairperson W. Cartrette: Park Committee is asking for Finance Committee to meet with Ehlers for advice on possible borrowing for Lake Project and also Lake District tax levy effect on taxpayers. Pool had a very successful opening weekend. Over 200 kids have signed up for lessons which is double or more than previous years, which is exciting and important. Wish list includes lounge chairs, etc. for the future and some discussion about considering that for future budgets. Committee reviewed many applications for the 'temporary' part time seasonal Park staff during permanent staff medical leave and they recommend to hire Belah Boe. **Motion by Cartrette to hire Mr. Boe for limited term seasonal employment to cover for medical leave of Permanent seasonal employee, 2nd C. Ekern. Discussion: \$12.00 per hour/Yes. Vote Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** Speed hump placement in the Park: **Motion by W. Cartrette to place hump near baseball field just above the "Y" entrance part of the road, close to the area near the baseball field water fountain area, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Streets, Lights & Equipment Committee Meeting, May 29, 2019. P. Syverson Chairperson reported:

- 1) Street Superintendent Equipment Review: Randy gave an update of equipment including the sweeper and the snow blower. He also presented information on a sweeper and a snow blower. He would prefer a sweeper over a snow blower if we decide to purchase something. We have about \$75,000 in our fund, a used snow blower would be \$94,500 to \$125,500 with a trade-in of \$12,000. Randy tried out a used sweeper in the Cities. It is a 2010 with 640 hours and 31,000 miles for \$84,900. To totally refurbish it would take about \$20,000 in parts and \$10,000 in labor. Total would be about \$125,000 with a trade-in of \$12,500 for our 2000. We then discussed our Loader. We have had it for four years. We were to trade at three but it was missed. When we traded before it was for about \$29,000. Now because we didn't stay on the planned rotation, the trade would be over \$63,848. This would be for a 2019 model 926M for our 924K, which Randy was told was the equivalent. If we were to keep our Loader, we should check into a 2,000 hour service plan and also check into leasing a second Loader. Discussion from C. Ekern, about 2 loaders to assist with snow removal, Randy Ekern was asked to check in to information on how other area towns do this, loader costs/rentals, etc. also about possible repair of snow blower instead of replacement.
- 2) Main, Immell & Oak Street Project: The project has started. (5/29/19) There was some question on permits, but as long as they have been received, it can continue. It still must be completed before Cheesefest.
- 3) Discussion on Preventative Maintenance and Standard Operating Procedures (Sweeping & Snow Plowing): Scheduling will have to be done for maintenance and Standard Procedures will be worked on.
- 4) General City related items: Randy did an assessment of streets. Sealcoating of Snake Road along with wedging per contract with Sand Mine. **MSC – Chris/Terry to have this done per recommendation of County Highway Department**

Streets: East Broadway – Wedge and sealcoat and also re-ring manholes.

Bridges: Trump Coulee Bridge – **We need to get quotes from Nelson and Hegg Contractors.**

Culverts: Schansberg & Larkin – **Must get bids and do.**

East Olson Culvert – **Must also be done.**

Other Items: We need to consider parking by the pool. Check on the City Parking Lot Lighting. Check who owns tree as it hangs down. Start looking at Pickups. Check with the Railroad on South Park Street lights. And also make sure we are using the chipper, as there will not be any more burning per DNR

Discussion about Broadway manholes being paved over, need to check who did work and why manholes were paved over and they should be responsible. **Motion by C. Ekern to fix Snake Coulee Road and have Clerk check with Sand Mine road agreement on if they cover expense, 2nd by P. Syverson.**

Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by P. Syverson to obtain quotes for Trump Coulee Bridge, for needed repairs per state inspection report, like rip rap, etc., also obtain quotes for Schansberg, Larkin Valley and East Olson culvert replacements. All project bids should be separated, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Directive issued by Council to check on possibility of railroad crossing and lights on Park Road near deer pen. Concern is for safety of children and others going to and from the Park activities.

Motion by M. Lisowski to use the chipper for all brush and wood under the 6" ability of our chipper. NO or very little burning should be taken place, effective immediately, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Clerk report: Thank you to Julie Wheeler for purchasing and planting new perineals in the Veterans Memorial area; Thank you to Lion's Club for replacing/installing the broken glass in the donor case at the Schroeder Shelter; Just for information purposes there continues to be many properties in the City that are being mown by City Public Works staff, due to owners not living in the area or not providing care for the property; Police Department Bike rodeo was a success; Park Ball fields were resurfaced Friday, May 31st, 2019; Park shed replacement ad for BID requests in out this week.

Building Permits: Jean & Pat Tulus @ 325 S. Urberg Avenue for a pool; **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** Mike McHugh @ 956 E. Taft St. for Hen House & Fence; **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** David Nyen @ 335 Peterson Avenue to replace concrete; Lorraine & Don Loken @ N31894 Larkin Valley Road for ADA ramp. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve Nyen and Loken permits as presented, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. Action Items**

Fire Permits: Lorraine & Don Loken @ N31894 Larkin Valley Road; Brendan Ressel @ 136 2nd Street; Lori Hoem @ 305 W. 2nd Street; Michael McHugh @ 956 E. Taft Street; Aaron Kidd @ 1022 E. Taft Street; Travis Armitage @ 106 S. Birch Street; Kamala Mattson @ 403 E. Broadway Street; Danny Austad @ 674 E. Maple Street; Linda Myhre @ 406 W. Broadway; James Burns @ 214 S. Park Road. **Motion by M. Lisowski to approve all as presented, 2nd W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Present May 2019 Vouchers for review & approval: **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve vouchers as presented, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Motion by C. Ekern to close the liquor license public hearing, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by J. Anderson to approve the following liquor license applications for 7/1/19 through 6/30/20: Class B – KTS Properties (Honey Hole Saloon); Steve Swenson (Swenson's Bar) and Jeremy Tranberg (Blair Haus Sports Bar & Grill)...Class A – Dolgencorp, LLC (Dollar General # 11052); J & S. Sales (Express Mart) and Kwik Trip Inc. (Kwik Trip #328), 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by C. Ekern to move to closed session per agenda language, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by M. Lisowski to move to open session per agenda language, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

From closed session discussion: General agreement of full council to have Clerk inform Countryside Co-op the City is not interested in the parcels at the counter offer amount.

Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Next Regular Council meeting is July 8, 2019 @ 7:00 pm