

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, January 7, 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 January 7, 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, Clerk/Treasurer S. Frederixson, Attorney A. Robertson and Trempealeau County Times. C. Ekern was absent.

Public Comment: None

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 12/3/2018. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Comwas/Coulee Region Biofuels request for variance: Al Robertson explained he received a letter from Ryberg Law Firm, S. C. on behalf of the Comwas operation requesting a variance from the City supporting that the operation is not involved in any type of animal processing in the City. According to Comwas/John Feyen they have been notified by the State they are considered a 'rendering type operation'. Feyen states they only recapture used cooking oils and produce biofuels. No animal slaughtering or rendering type activities what so ever. Comwas needs a 'variance' from the City to comply with DATCP 57.14(6)(c), which states if they have approval of the City to have a grease processing plant within 1/8 mile of a dwelling or business building the State may allow operation. When operation was started they were told they needed only a 'solid waste' license so that is what they hold. John Feyen said they have a hearing with the State 2/20/2019. Recommendation from Al Robertson that this should go through Ordinance Committee for review and recommendation to full Council. **Motion by J. Anderson to send to Ordinance Committee, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Hen License renewal application: Scott Rogstad @ 322 W. Center Street & Dawn Wozney @ 121 S. Dover Street. Clerk reports these people have very nice set ups that meet Ordinance requirements, with no complaints recorded and recommends approval. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

2019 Burning Pit permit request: Amy Mock @ 838 E. Broadway Street; David Smith @ 414 E. Broadway; Timothy Grandy @ 909 East Olson Street; Mike & Tracy Lisowski @ 111 E. 5th Street; Carol Ibinger @ 530 E. Taft Street; Henry Schrock/Jennalee Paulson @ 414 Urberg Street; Steve Nyen @ 639 E. Center Street; Katy Lien @ 221 Tenney Avenue; William Hamble @ 1108 E. Pine Street; Tom Hanson @ 208 S. Pearl Street; John F. Anderegg @ 647 E. Taft Street. Clerk reported all applicants were given copy of Ordinance related to burning in the City. All have verified their fire pits meet the standards of the ordinance and are a minimum of 25' from any building. None of these applicants have had a burning complaint recorded to my knowledge and I recommend approval of all as presented. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve all as presented, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: J. Anderson comment there was some grumbling from residents on why the need for permits. Safety and ability to enforce violations to the Ordinance. W. Cartrette & M. Lisowski commented how will we monitor people that burn without a permit? They will be contacted and required to get a permit or council may enforce Ordinance penalties. M. Lisowski commented that landlords should be informing tenants as the information was given via tax bills. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Source Energy Service Blair/SPW/Hwy 53 & Schaunsberg Road Operations trucking of product has ended as of 1/2/2019. At this point there will only be a few trucks moving 'waste sand', estimated at 2-4 trucks daily. W. Cartrette requested Clerk contact SPW via email to be sure they are working to fix the slurry line issues so it is ready to go when season begins and there will be no product hauled by truck going forward; only the 2-4 waste trucks.

- Page 2 - 1/7/2018 Regular Meeting minutes

Park/Lake Committee meeting 12-11-18 - Lake Dredge project- David Schofield/S.E.H. engineer reported meeting reviewed preliminary dredge plans and haul route. Clerk set up meeting with engineer, city staff and land owners of 'off road' haul route for 1/10/19. If the 'off road' haul route is chosen, construction easements would have to be allowed by land owners along the route. There are other options if the 'off road' route is not available. Discussion about possible wish to increase dredge volume from 172,000 cubic yards to 200,000 cubic yards, which would include a deeper bay area, S.E.H. will look at that option and bring info to Committee. Map of dredge project was reviewed, one smaller area of Lake would be deeper and set for more regular dredging, which would be less expensive than waiting 35-40 years and having to do the entire Lake. The Lake will need to be dredged going forward in order to keep it in good condition. S.E.H. Engineers believe the previous dredge did work, it is just that 35-40 years is too long between dredge projects. Committee is working on a 'maintenance dredge plan' also. Estimated construction/dredging project costs: Mechanical with temp/haul road - \$1,944,000/Transfer load with over the road - \$2,034,000/Hydraulic Dredging-\$ 2,014,000. M. Lisowski asked about going north of rails? S.E.H. said there is extensive water concerns on that side, not feasible. Next meeting will be moved from 1/15/19 to 1/17/19 and Jill agreed to Chair meeting.

Safety fencing on baseball field & upgrades to small electrical shed near softball field: City staff expects they are able to do this project. Council agreed.

Ball field upgrade update: Clerk provided estimate from Dirt Monkey, LLC \$1,000 for both fields for grading. Motion to get a full estimate, which would include screenings and preparation of after. Request how much screenings and pricing. Softball field first and baseball field after early season. Other estimates were received from Hegg Contractors for \$1,340 per field and Coulee Region Landscape for both fields of \$ 18,410.64. **Motion by J. Anderson to get full estimate to include screenings & entire project. If falls in line with budgeted amount ok for Clerk to proceed with getting on their schedule for softball field asap and baseball field mid-June per Seth Dale on date, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: J. Anderson there may be additional cost for 2 trips? Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Aquatic Center 2019 Season Pool Pass Costs: Committee reviewed area pool pass prices ranging from \$75 to \$180 for family pass and \$50 to \$90 for single pass and \$3 to \$4 for a daily pass. City of Blair 2015 prices were \$40 for family season pass, \$20 for single season pass and \$2 for daily pass. After much discussion and consideration for budgets of residents and area guests...**Motion by W. Cartrette to set 2019 swim passes at \$100.00 for Family Season pass, \$50.00 for Single Season pass and keep daily pass at \$2.00. Lessons would remain at \$10.00 unless they have a season pass and then lessons would be included, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: M. Lisowski, J. Anderson and T. Wheeler had much concern for keeping the price as low as possible so not to exclude anyone and to keep it as affordable as possible. Vote: Yes 4, No 1(T. Wheeler). Motion approved.**

Deer in park update: Deer are expected within the next week. Once they arrive we have 90 days to complete enrollment into the State CWD program which will take paperwork and veterinarian visit and signatures which have been set up.

Combination Water Sewer & Street Committees meeting on 12/12/2018 Street Committee Chairperson P. Syverson reported: Committee members P. Syverson, C. Ekern, T. Wheeler, Water Superintendent Bob Fraust, Street Superintendent Randy Ekern and 2 S.E.H. representatives were present. Discussions about Stewart Anderegg property water pooling concern. **Committee recommends** we redirect this drainage issue to the County Highway Commissioner, and P. Syverson will do that with Council's approval. Continue to work to gather easements and have S.E.H. proceed. 2019 Street & Infrastructure project: Main Street property owners were surveyed if they wished to keep sidewalk or ok with eliminating them. **Committee** reviewed survey information

- Page 3 - 1/7/2018 Regular Meeting minutes

and recommends keeping sidewalk on West side of Main Street and only near the Ralph/Jeff Johnson property on the East side. Committee still needs input from Simmons Construction. **Committee recommends** installation of 25' of driveway curb on NW part of Oak Street in consideration of plowing practices. **Committee recommends** 8-15 soil borings on Main, Immell and Oak Streets be done. S.E.H. obtained 3 quotes with the lowest being Chosen Valley Testing (LaCrosse, WI) for lump sum of \$3,000 and is recommended by S.E.H. as a good company. **Motion by P. Syverson to accept low bid of Chosen Valley Testing for \$3,000, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** Randy Ekern Street Superintendent recommends the storm drain on Main Street needs a check valve and larger pipe from the main to the creek. S.E.H. and Committee agree and will include this in the project bid documents. Discussions to bring 4th Street stormwater driveway project, previously awarded to Simmons Construction, into the grant project and remove only that portion from the 4th & 5th Street storm water project accepted by Simmons. City Engineers explain the reason is that Main Street is going to be lowered and to avoid having to create a berm we can lower that radius and run that water around the curb. When the 4th Street project was awarded the grant was not approved yet, with the grant funding make sense to include in the project. Simmons will need to be contacted with explanation and request. **Motion by P. Syverson to remove the 4th and Main Street portion from the 4th & 5th Street project awarded to Simmons Construction and include in the 2019 infrastructure grant project, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.** Mayor mentioned questions he had about the possibility of rounding the sharp corner at 4th and Main so easier to maneuver around? City Engineer explained that is already in the plans of the project to include a 25' radius which will improve traffic ease during events like the Parade and other large vehicles like semis and farm equipment. There is a tree that may need to be removed for part of the project. Consideration was also given at that corner to leave it open somewhat in case 4th Street ever does get extended. Bob Fraust reported he is still working with DNR on number 5 & 6 wells, but no additional information at this time. Committee also talked with John Feyen/Blair Car wash about unapproved discharge of waste water issue, which has since been discontinued. S.E.H. recommended if City does allow them to put waste water into our mains they need a 'users agreement' prior to any discharging. The user agreement should include language about testing and reporting, etc. **Motion by P. Syverson to have City Attorney do a draft waste water 'industrial user agreement' for Blair Car Wash/Bio fuel business, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. Council agreed verbally with all other recommendations in this report.**

Tax, Finance & Personnel Committee review 2019 Fire Department budget: At the budget hearing we missed stating the 2019 amounts budgeted for the Fire department. Chairperson J. Anderson stated previously we have split the department budget with Town of Preston on a 50%-50% basis and in 2 payments during the year. With the new Fire Board agreement, the City agreed to fund the department according to equalized value going forward. For 2019 the Fire department budget is estimated at \$74,000 and our equalized value portion is 59.5 % or \$44,030.00. **Motion by W. Cartrette to approve the City will pay the fire department budget amount on an equalized value basis going forward and to allow payment in full in February annually. This amount will also include the fire department insurance dollars, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Clerk report: Two new street lights were installed on Olson Street between Birch Street and Hickory Street; Announcing Blair Police Department 1st annual Youth Winter Festival. Chief Wheeler has put much personal effort in to organizing an event for kids ages 3-9, with lunch, refreshments and outdoor games. Event is set for 1/26/19 in the Park near the Schroeder shelter from noon to 3:00 pm. Parents need to attend. No charge for anything. Funded with P.D. car inspection budget dollars, with time donated by the department and volunteers.

- Page 4 - 1/7/2018 Regular Meeting minutes

Nice positive way to bridge the gap between the public and our Police department; Resident compliment to City Hall about the nice job the public works department does with the roads and snow plowing in our City, seems better than some other Cities; Paul Syverson shared that Erva Jo Dahl had also commented on the same thing to him.

Building Permits: John Angst @ 635 E. Olson Street for bathroom remodel. Comment by W. Cartrette for condolences to the Angst family over the loss of John. Motion by W. Cartrette to approve as presented, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

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

Motion by J. Anderson to enter into Closed Session per agenda language, 2nd by W. Cartrette. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Motion by P. Syverson to return to open session, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

No action was taken from the Closed Session

Motion by J. Anderson to adjourn, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.

Next Council meeting is February 4, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Treasurer