

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 7, 2022

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Open meeting requirements verified. Attendance roll call: Mayor J. Rawson-yes, P. Syverson-absent, C. Ekern-yes, D. Stephenson-yes, T. Wheeler-yes, M. Lisowski-yes, and J. Anderson-yes. Others attending: Attorney M. Radcliffe, Clerk S. Frederixon. Trempealeau County Times, Members of the public: Andy Graff/City Street Department Manager.

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council 2/7/22 Meeting. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve 2/7/22 minutes as presented in packets, 2nd J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: Alderperson J. Anderson shared: Park and Recreation Program has received 2 offers of donation to support the summer ball programs. John Feyen, owner of Arcade Pumping Service, LLC of Ettrick, pledged \$3,000 to help pay for kids participation fees and Ally Solberg, who grew up in Blair, offered 2022 Badger Football Tickets to be raffled off with proceeds to also fund participation fees for summer programs. The value is estimated at \$800/\$900 per set. The hope is that Fire Department would raffle tickets and return money to summer programs as municipalities are not permitted to do raffles.

Source Energy Services 2022 Road Agreement base line road inspection update: It was decided that S.E.H. would not assist the City with this project, so Clerk Frederixon is in the process of working with the 3 companies suggested by Attorney Radcliffe and S.E.H. as possible engineering companies to do the road assessment. We are still waiting to hear back from 2 companies, but 1 had current contracts with S.E.S. and therefore will not be considered. Update expected at 4/11/2022 meeting.

Discuss/Take Action: Temporary Street Closure Permit Application from Cindy Hanson for set up on Friday, May 20, late afternoon thru late afternoon on Saturday, May 21. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action: Public Works Department equipment review/upgrade planning/Street Committee. At the Council's request, A. Graff explained he has contacted companies for information on upgrading/used or new public works department equipment: sweeper(current is a 2000 model), still waiting for information but McQueen has a 6 year lease program, Fabick has been contacted as the loader is on a 3 year replacement plan and is due in 2023 with possible 6 month lead time, International truck pins are loose and need maintenance, Street department was approved to purchase tool boxes as needed for tools stored in truck. Plans were set for a Finance Committee meeting to review current general, CIP and possible undesignated funds in general checking accounts for upgrading of current equipment by then Andy should have additional information for consideration.

Committee Meeting Minutes: **Motion by J. Anderson to approve as presented in packets and place on file minutes from, 2/9/22 Plan Commission and 2/10/22 Public Works Department Meetings, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action: Blair Code of Ordinances 49.10 Combining Contiguous Lots for purpose of improvements to primary home. Presentation of a Certified Survey Map (CSM) by Tim & Shelly Grandy, 909 E. Olson Street as required by Ordinance. CSM was done by High Cliff Consulting, LLC, reviewed and recommended by the Plan Commission on 2/9/22 and reviewed by City Attorney Mark Radcliffe. Attorney Radcliffe recommended the Grandy CSM be approved as presented. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve Grandy CSM as recommended by Attorney and presented in packets, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: Reminder to have Grandy/engineer take approved, signed CSM to County to be recorded at Register of Deeds office and a copy returned to the City. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action: S.E.H. Source Energy Services Road Agreement assessment question of where funds should be taken. Decided no need to decide until have contract to approve. No Action.

Discuss/Take Action: Ordinance Chapter 26 Trees & Shrubs and 26.04 Maintenance, Trimming & Removal: Resident concerns about 2 trees in very poor condition on neighboring property, hoping the City can intervene before damage to property or person occurs. Attorney Radcliffe reads the Ordinance as the City having authority over ONLY trees in the City ‘right of way’, which is within 6’ feet of the roadside or curb line or public property or when blocking vehicle traffic signs. Tree #1 will be measured for distance from curb line and tree # 2 is in the back yard of property and not within City jurisdiction.

Discuss/Take Action: Ways to incentivize building homes in Wildcat Residential Development: Alderperson Mike Lisowski excused himself prior to this discussion and returned after action was taken. Attorney Radcliffe shared at a previous meeting of a City that had a program where development lots could be purchased for say \$12,000 and if built on and a ‘certificate of occupancy’ has been issued, within a timeframe, such as 18 months, the lot price after expenses, would be returned to the property owner. Wildcat lots are owned by Blair Industrial Development Corporation Organization, but net lot sale funds go to the City. BIDCO Board has already met and recommends a program like this be approved for these lots. Council was interested in this, discussed pros & cons and details of program. **Motion by J. Anderson to accept proposal from BIDCO to have the City pay back lot owner the net purchase price of any lots sold going forward, if home/duplex is built and ‘certificate of occupancy’ is issued within 18 months after sale, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Roll Call vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, T. Wheeler/yes, J. Anderson/yes, Mike Lisowski: abstain. Motion approved.** M. Lisowski returned to the meeting.

Server License Applications: Alderperson Dennis Stephenson excused himself from this discussion and left the room. Dianne Stenberg, Jacob Anderegg and Veronica Delgado have submitted applications. Background checks were done on all three with Interim Police Chief Randy Jensen finding NO information disqualifying them for approval. Attorney Radcliffe agreed. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve as presented, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 4, No 0. Motion approved.** D. Stephenson returned to the meeting.

Building Permit update: Spreadsheet is in your packets, with one approved in January and none in February.

Clerk Report: **2021 Audit** took place in City Office the week of February 14th. **Source Energy Slurry line:** Per Nathan Stobb/Regulatory compliance manager, they anticipate the slurry line being operational the first part of April as long as the weather cooperates. As the wash plant starts up for the season, they will have to temporarily truck product from the mine to the dry plant. Trucking will be short lived as goal will be to utilize the slurry line as soon as we possibly can. **Spring Cleanup dates** are being discussed with expectations of late April or early May for the event. Update at April 11 meeting. **Council Paychecks** will be available with the 4/22/2022 pay date.

Present Vouchers for review and approval: **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve the vouchers as presented in packets, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern, J. Anderson-yes, M. Lisowski-yes and T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.**

Motion by C. Ekern The City Council for the City of Blair, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(b), may convene in closed session to consider the possible dismissal, demotion, or discipline of a public employee and/or the investigation of charges against such public employee and possibly taking formal action on any such matter; and also, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved regarding a complaint received, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, J. Anderson/yes, M. Lisowski/yes, T. Wheeler/yes. Motion approved.

Motion by C. Ekern to return to open session, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, J. Anderson/yes, M. Lisowski/yes, T. Wheeler/yes. Motion approved.

Action from closed session, Motion by D. Stephenson to authorize Attorney Radcliffe to hire a ‘hearing officer’ for the Officer complaint against Police Chief, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: D. Stephenson/yes, C. Ekern/yes, J. Anderson/yes, M. Lisowski/yes, T. Wheeler/yes. Motion approved.

Next Council meeting is April 11, 2022 Regular Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm and April 19, 2022 Re-Organizational Meeting @ 6:30 pm.

Motion by J. Anderson to adjourn, 2nd C. Ekern. Vote: Yes 5, No 0. Motion approved. Time 7:30 p.m.

Susan Frederixon, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer