

July 15, 2021 Minutes for Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Blair

A Special 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 15, 2021. Mayor Rawson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The following were present: Alderpersons: P. Syverson, J. Anderson, T. Wheeler, C. Ekern, M. Lisowski, D. Stephenson, City Attorney M. Radcliffe & City Clerk S. Frederixon.

The Wildcat Saloon application for liquor license was reviewed, it was reported the lead member of the organization's background check showed a recent OWI violation. Attorney and Police Chief recommended since it was so recent and directly relates to the type of business this application is for, the Council may decide to deny, but entirely up to Council. Question came up, could they proceed with the application if that person removed his name from the application, since the other 2 members had background checks that were ok. Attorney said, yes if he was here to offer that, but he is not. Item was tabled to end of meeting to see if Austin could make the meeting to verbal request his name be removed from application. Motion by T. Wheeler to grant the liquor license to 'The Wildcat Saloon' as presented, Mayor called 3 times for a 2nd and hearing none declared the motion failed. Attorney Radcliffe said there must be action on this item tonight, so we will keep discussion until that happens. After much discussion, **Motion by P. Syverson to defer this agenda item to end of meeting to see if Mr. Knopps might be able to attend to request his name be taken off the application and it be considered with just Lisa and Travor, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on ATV/UTV Ordinance: C. Ekern reported there have been multiple meeting on this topic, after further review the Ordinance we recently passed will not allow our residents to drive ATV/UTV's to the routes, they would have to trailer them for a couple blocks, which is not ideal. Committee has talked with different groups on this including the DNR and the Committee wants to ask full Council to opening up the entire City for ATV/UTV traffic, minus a few identified Streets, which generally includes most of B-1 Business District Streets, which all can be accessed via back entrances. Also ATV/UTV traffic not allowed in most of the Park, other than designated route. Spring Street/Hwy 95 would also be not allowed for ATV/UTV traffic other than designated route crossing points. After some research Committee found out we can allow ATV/UTV traffic down 4th Street/Hwy 95 all the way to Kwik Trip, by working with the County on some items. Council verbally agrees with Committee suggestions and approves Attorney Radcliffe to work with C. Ekern to develop an amended ATV/UTV Ordinance for the August Council Meeting, also ok for Chief Johnson to work with Debi Fremstad/City Treasurer on ordering signs for new Ordinance, suggestion to put City website address on signs. There was lots of discussion about correct signage required. Chris Ekern commented on speaking with local DNR agent who recommended the ATV/UTV routes are big in the entire state, good for tourism, etc. and highly recommended we consider opening City to that traffic with rules. Attorney reminded Council it is very important to put the time in now and do this right, because in order to be successful in court for any violations he needs legal signage for evidence of guilt. No motion required on this, Attorney Radcliffe will draft according to direction form Ordinance Chairperson/Police Chief and have as action item on August meeting. **Ordinance should include language that it will be effective after passed by Council, published and signs are in place. Council is hoping once route is set the City office can develop some 8 ½ x 11 maps for people and employees to have, also have the route posted on City website.**

Discuss/Take Action on Lawnmower/other slow moving vehicles Ordinance: Committee discussed due to residents questioning why lawnmowers, etc. can travel city streets but not ATV/UTV. Committee reviewed State Statutes, etc. lawnmowers, trailers etc. can travel streets, **but need to have a 'slow moving vehicle sign' on the most prominent portion of the vehicle. City slow moving vehicles will need signs also.**

Discuss/Take Action on Ordinance 32 Dogs & Other animals: C. Ekern reported Committee had Attorney draft an amended Ordinance for consideration. Committee has made a recommendation that full Council adopt this new version of Ordinance 32. Attorney Radcliffe said he was asked to update your current Ordinance with what types of animals that are permitted in City of Blair. This Ordinance does not affect the current Hen License Blair has. He reviewed multiple other community similar Ordinance and incorporated the general types of animals they permit and do not permit. Gave a general definition of what ‘domesticated pet’ means, dog or cat or other similar animal which has been tamed and is kept by/lives with humans as a pet for pleasure or companionship however it shall not include: turkeys, cattle, llama’s, alpaca’s horses, mules, donkeys, sheep, goats, hooved animals, swine, nor shall it include wild animals such as mink, deer bob cats, foxes, skunks, raccoons, pigeons, geese, ducks, poisonous snakes, alligators, crocodiles, or other wild animals normally found out in the wild. Pretty exhaustive list and may be amended if something comes up. Illegal to keep a pet that is not as defined in this chapter. Clerk Frederixon mentioned we currently allow by Ordinance Homing pigeons. Attorney Radcliffe will specify after pigeon “it does not include homing pigeons”.

Mayor Rawson allowed audience member David Donnelly to say, “I live in Blair and own a business in Blair, this directly affects my personal pet population. I own pet goats. I am asking that you consider taking out ‘goats’ from the list like you did take out homing pigeons and if you don’t are my animals ‘grandfathered’ in? Donnelly said the animals live with him, he has a pen for them, and they are also in his apartment. Since he got a ‘food license’ he does not allow the goats in his business. Alderperson Stephenson said he understood you would be grandfathered in. Attorney Radcliff and council said they would be grandfathered in but you cannot get new ones. Alderperson Lisowski questioned how this affects some of the annexations we have had, A-1 zoned property where livestock is permitted? Attorney said this new Ordinance would apply to all zones. Ordinances need to be taken very seriously and really thought about, revisited and carefully considered so they are done right, they affect all residents. Council wishes the grandfather clause related to any currently registered “non-domesticated’ animals and also an exemption for all Agricultural zoned property. Clerk requested more direction on the registration of current grandfathered animals, Radcliff said document showing description, number and location of pets, in any ‘non-ag’ zoned area. No fee charged for these pets, like is required for dogs. Non registered non domesticated pets found in the City can be issued a citation. Clerk will put a Notice to be published on this new program. Attorney Radcliffe will redraft and have on for August 2nd meeting for consideration.

Revisit ‘The Wildcat Saloon’ application for liquor license: Applicant Lisa B. said they were not successful in reaching Austin K. and he will not be able to attend this meeting. **Motion by M. Lisowski to deny based on applicant with recent OWI history, within last 6 months, which directly related to the type of business applying to open, shows concern for his ability to have good judgement, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: Many council members urged applicant to consider re-applying with Lisa and Trevor as their background checks would lend to an approval. If Austin K. was here in person to request his name be removed from application the Council could vote with just the 2 remaining applicants, but he is not present, so they cannot consider the application without Austin K. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. Attorney Radcliff will send applicants written notice of council action.**

If Wildcat saloon decides to reapply Council will consider a Special meeting for the application to be consider as soon as possible. Clerk willing to meet with them tonight to complete new application and work on a publication so can meet the TCT Friday deadline. Applicants accepted that offer.

Attorney Radcliffe reminded Council that once meeting is adjourned there should be NO additional City business discussed at all, that is a violation of OPEN MEETING LAW requirements.

Motion by P. Syverson to adjourn, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.