

City of Blair Regular Council Meeting Minutes, August 2, 2021

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 August 2, 2021. Mayor J. Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Aldersperson roll call: D. Stephenson, T. Wheeler, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, M. Lisowski, C. Ekern. Others attending: Police Chief K. Johnson, Clerk S. Frederixson, Attorney M. Radcliffe, Trempealeau County Times, David Donnelly and Randy Obieglo.

Present minutes for approval: Regular Council Meeting 7/12/2021 & Special Council Meeting on 7/15/2021: Clerk requested these be tabled as the minutes are not complete at this time. **Motion J. Anderson to table both minutes on the agenda to the August 5th Special meeting, 2nd P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-6, No-0. Motion approved.**

Public Comment: Mayor recognized Randy Obieglo to speak, he asked the council “what does April 28th and May 1st mean to them”? City Attorney Radcliffe reminded Mayor that public comment is just that, an opportunity for public COMMENT, in order to stay in compliance with open meeting notice requirements, the Council may not discuss anything that isn’t on this agenda; not question and answer session. Mr. Obieglo became loud and belligerent, and was asked by Attorney to calm down or be escorted out by Chief Johnson. Obieglo did not calm down and was escorted out of meeting and did not return. Mayor asked if there was any other public comments. There were none.

S.E.H. CDBG-PF Grant Application update: David Schofield reported our application for the Grant was not awarded this time. The Department of Administration received more application than funds available so all could not be funded. They determined that while our project was eligible, it didn’t score high enough to receive an award. David dug into it some and we scored 133 points out of possible 250. As a comparison when we were funded in 2019 we had 117 points. D.O.A dropped the Public Facility grant funds by about 40% this time, went up about 400% in the emergency disaster recovery/assistance portion of the funding and an additional 20 million dollars to CDBG-Corona Virus funding. Score that we had should have funded in a normal funding year. Jill Anderson asked if Broadway/Pearl project is off now, Schofield said the Street Committee will have to discuss and decide that. Dave S. commented we got 33 out of 100 possible in the financial need category, which on the down side caused us to get less points, but on the up side show City is running a decent ship financially and in less need compared to some other communities. **David suggested at next Street Committee they discuss if they wish to continue to pursue for 2022 or reapply next year for possible construction in 2023.**

Attorney Radcliffe explained and reminded council about reports. Susan and I have been working to try to streamline the agenda, and one way we all agreed on was having Committee Chairpersons record minutes of their meetings and get them to Susan so she can share them with full Council prior to monthly meeting. This allows council to be informed on Committee discussions and only need to answer any questions on the minutes. If no questions on the minutes, then Mayor will ask for motion to accept and place on file the Committee meeting minutes and move to the next Committee meeting minutes for the same. Only meetings taking place between Regular Council meetings will be listed on agendas going forward. Committee Chairs are responsible for letting Susan know if there were any Committee recommendations needing to be put on the next full Council meeting for action. This will also avoid department heads showing up to meeting unless there is an agenda item that requires their attendance. Attorney asked is there a reason Kent is needed at these meeting or would a report be acceptable?

Reports: Blair Police Department, Chief Johnson is requesting people call Sheriff’s department dispatch number (715-538-4351) when they have a police assistance type issue or think they need an officer instead of the Blair department phone (608-989-2300). Typically at night the officers are out on patrol and will not get that message in a timely manner. Call dispatch the information will get very quickly to our officers on duty via radio, plus this give a documented record of the time and information on the call. Ok to call office phone for non-emergent issue

and leave a message. DO NOT CALL CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, IT IS NOT A DISPATCH CENTER. They do not have the correct computer software, means of getting ahold of us or training needed to handle P.D. calls. Please help get this word out to people, they need to call dispatch. Attorney Radcliffe asked if Police department voicemail instructs caller to call dispatch and number or 911. Chief Johnson said it did for a while, but no one ever did it anyway. Chief is hoping to talk with budget committee about improved phone system that offers options to press a number to connect to dispatch or officer. **No Action on Police Department report. Going forward Kent will type up a report and get to Susan so she can distribute to Council prior to meeting and no need to attend regular council meetings unless specially requested by Council to attend or feels he needs to be present on a certain topic. Kent and Council verbally agreed on that. There were no reports from our Public Works department.**

Blair Community Development Group on 7/15/21 - J. Anderson: Website is up and running. Pastor Paul is the one to contact if people have any input, additions or corrections to the website. Also, we need to know if there are addition properties available for sale. Discussed payment for the website participating businesses will be charged quarterly \$25/month = \$75/quarter. If more businesses join the price will go down. Pastor Paul will write a little "blurb" to go with the billing for the businesses. Businesses involved will get information put together for their monthly spotlight on the page, send to Pastor Paul as well. Other links on the page will include at this time: City, School, Church, County – Economic Development. Still need letters to State Economic Development in support of Blair Haus, Kujak Meat Market, and Hegg Milling - email or send to Susan as soon as possible so they are on file when they are needed. Advertise our group on Facebook. Next meeting August 19 at 6:30 at the Community Center. Adjourn at 7:10pm. No action needed as minutes were read at meeting.

Police/Ordinance Committee Meeting on 7/15/21 was discussed at the July 15th Special Meeting.

Personnel, Tax & Finance Committee Meeting on 7/20/2021-J. Anderson provided minutes. Present: Paul Syverson, Dennis Stephenson, Jill Anderson, Susan Frederixon, Randy Ekern. Discussion on flex hours for workers of the city. Committee recommends Police department can flex hours; need to communicate to city office prior to flexing time when possible. Work on making office positions and police chief position salaried in next budget. Office should receive monthly police schedule. Motion to adjourn by Paul, 2nd Dennis. Motion passed. Adjourned at 5:55 pm. **Motion by D. Stephenson to accept and place on file the Personnel, Tax & Finance minutes presented in packets, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Plan Commission Meeting: Public Hearing for Blair Haus C.U.P. Application July 27, 2021: Plan Commission Agenda: Public Hearing, Discussion & Action on Conditional Use Permit Application for 107 W. Broadway Street, Blair WI to include lower level apartments to the new building planned for construction. Chairperson Lisowski called the Plan Commission meeting to order, he also called the Public Hearing to order. Roll Call: M. Lisowski, J. Anderson, Mayor J. Rawson, J. Arneson, R. Anderson, L. Moen, B. Stenberg. Also present: Attorney Radcliffe, Clerk Frederixon and Blair Haus Owner Jeremy Tranberg. We are here to review and consider approval of a Conditional Use Permit Application for the B-1 District from The Blair_Haus Sports Bar, located at 107 W. Broadway Street in Blair. The completed application is requesting 1st floor apartments be approved to be added to the rear portion of the re-build of the tavern/restaurant. The current Ordinance, under the Conditional Uses section states "rental apartments as a secondary use in the B-1 District, in a Business/Commercial building provided a) No part of the apartment is at the front of the building, where the front of the building faces the primary street. b) The business/commercial portion of the building must comprise of at least thirty percent (30%) of the square footage of the street level floor." The applicant states their application meets these requirements. Chairperson asked for any Public Comment at this time: Public Comment consisted of Jeremy Tranberg stating he would let his Conditional Use Permit stand as presented. Chairperson asked Tranberg for clarification on floor

plan for length of new building, Tranberg stated 80 feet. Chairperson Lisowski asked 3 times for any additional public comment hearing none he asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. **Motion by J. Anderson to close public hearing, 2nd by L. Moen. Roll call vote taken, all members voted yes. Motion approved.** Attorney Radcliffe explained this application request for lower level apartments, is supported by our current Ordinance and meets those requirements. Law states we are required to approve a C.U.P. as long as applicants states they can meet the requirements of the current Ordinance. Attorney went through with Commission to consider all sections of the City Ordinance 46.05 Conditional Uses. Commission member Stenberg asked for clarification on B-1 District Description, letter (d) Dimensional Requirements: Minimal Lot Area: 8,000 square feet? J. Tranberg confirmed this lot is 10,000 square feet. Commission member R. Anderson asked about additional codes needing to be followed by builders, does the new building have sprinkler system? Attorney Radcliffe said they have to follow all other City Ordinances, including local & state building codes, etc. J. Tranberg said they have State approved building plans and construction being done by certified contractors. Yes the building will have sprinkler system. **Motion by J. Anderson to recommend to the full City Council approval of the Blair Haus Sports Bar C.U.P. application as we feel it meets all conditions of our Ordinance 46.05, 2nd by J. Arneson. Discussion: J. Anderson question on if entire lot will be filled, J. Tranberg said all but 7 feet, where the alley will still be there, which is owned by S. Ekern. Commission member L. Moen wondered if will be room for emergency services to access apartments, handicap accessible, etc. J. Tranberg said yes the parking area will allow for that. Roll call vote, all members voted yes, none voted No. Motion approved. Motion by J. Anderson to adjourn, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 7, No 0. Motion approved. Motion by J. Anderson to accept the 7/27/21 Plan Commission minutes as presented and place on file, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Plan Commission Meeting on August 2nd, 2021: Attorney Radcliffe stated all information from this meeting will be addressed on agenda item # 11 tonight, we can just move on at this point with no action for this item. **Motion by P. Syverson to accept Mikes recited minutes as stated and place them on file, 2nd C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Server Licenses presented in the packet: recommending approval with no background issues are Isabel Berg, Sally Fieber, Danielle Daffinson, Gwendolyn Kidd, Michelle Hull & David Mattison. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve all server license applications presented, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Clerk Report: City has received the 2021 2% Fire Dues of \$ 4,303.62; check out the buck in the park, his horns are getting pretty big; plan to have our Public Works department monitor the seepage concerns identified by our 2021 dam inspection is in process, Public works have been trained by Oakridge engineering.

Discuss/Take Action on Application for Class B liquor license for 2021 Cheese Festival event: **Motion by C. Ekern to approve the class B liquor license as presented, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Plan Commission Blair Haus Sports Bar Conditional Use Permit: Mike Lisowski, Plan Commission Chairperson reviewed their 7/27/21 Plan Commission meeting that also included a Public Hearing on this application. Application is requesting to build 2 ground level apartments on the backside of their new building, they met all requirements of our Ordinance in Plan Commission and S.E.H. City Engineer's opinions. Plan Commission is recommending to the full Council to approve this application with a Plan Commission vote of 6 Yes and 0 No. City Attorney Radcliffe said he agrees this application meets all Ordinance requirements and needs to be approved. **Motion by D. Stephenson to approve C.U.P. application from the Blair Haus as recommended by our Plan Commission, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Resolution #08-02-2021B Approving an Amendment to the Project Plan and Boundaries of Tax Incremental District No. 6, City of Blair, WI. Clerk Frederixon explained the Joint Review Board has reviewed and agreed to pass on to the Plan Commission, which met today and the Plan Commission is recommending by a vote of 6 yes, 0 no to have full Council consider approving this resolution. Brian Reilly of Ehlers explained anytime a community wishes to amend or change plan document there is a process, needs to be reviewed by the Joint Review Board (members represent all taxing districts & a public member), Plan Commission needs to have a Public Hearing, then the City Council takes action on it and then finally the Joint Review Board will take up again for final up or down vote. The first two parts of process have taken place with support of the resolution, now it is here for Council action. This Resolution sets forth much of the compliance for amending a TID. The boundary extension extends to southwest tip of City to incorporate some additional Commercial area. This provides a tool to possibly financially assist business in the area related to eligible expenses. There are a number of tests for City to be able to do this and all have been passed. Map of current TID 6 boundary and proposed TID 6 boundary was reviewed. D. Stephenson stated the new business in not in the floodway. Mark Radcliffe pointed out letter k of the Resolution calls for an opinion of the City Attorney advising the plan is complete and complies with WI Statues Section 66.1105(4)(f), I have not reviewed this yet has that been done by someone at Ehlers or do I still need to do this? Ehlers says that still needs to be done. Mark Radcliffe will review and work on that opinion. Attorney Radcliffe asked if letters a-b and a-j have all been completed, B. Reilly stated they have been. A final draft can be competed and sent to Radcliffe office for review prior to 8/5/2021 meeting. **Motion by P. Syverson to table until August 5, 2021 Special Meeting after Attorney Radcliffe can review Resolution as stated in letter k on page 1 of the Resolution, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Feral Cat Concern/Lesley Moen, resident: Lesley was not at this meeting. Clerk stated that this topic has surfaced before and after researching, feral cats are a reality in all cities. Recommendations are residents should make sure garbage is tightly covered and stored, do not feed stray animals and make sure all out building doors are secure and tightly closed. This is the way to eliminate your chance of having trouble with feral cats. We do not have any Ordinances addressing feral cats. **No Action taken.**

Discuss/Take Action Ordinance 32, business owner/resident David Donnelly concerns: requesting to be able to comment on the new Animal Ordinance that is further down on agenda, since I don't know what it is I can't really comment on it. Attorney Radcliffe reminded Council that the time for discussion on topics is during the public comment portion of the meeting, NOT during the ACTION portion of the agenda, makes it difficult for us to have a productive meeting. Donnelly stated, our new animal ordinance is directly affecting his lifestyle and business in our City. To my knowledge there is zero recorded complaints about his goats. He stated he has 34 members of our City or visitors to our City that are in support of goats being included as an accepted pet in our Ordinance. "I feel like I am being pushed out. I am asking that the Council put goats in with the accepted domesticated animals with in the Ordinance. If you don't I will be happy to understand that and make my own choices after that."

Discuss/Take Action on Draft Ordinance 32 Keeping of Domesticated Pets: Attorney Radcliffe made the following changes to the draft of Ordinance 32: 'exception for homing pigeons' and 'this section shall not apply to sections of the City zoned A-1 Agricultural District nor shall it apply to any animal that is not a domesticated pet at the time of this change, but was kept by the owner prior to July 1st 2021 and which is registered with the City Clerk office no later than 30 days after publication of this approved Ordinance amendment. Council requested this so people couldn't go out and get a bunch of these animals once the Council started discussing this. **Motion by P. Syverson that we adopt this draft as presented by Attorney Radcliffe today, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on 'new' ATV/UTV Ordinance: Attorney Radcliffe said change is in 'sub 2 (a)' previously listed approved streets as open to ATV/UTV traffic, now has changed to say 'all city-maintained roads, streets, alleys, and highways, including any city-maintained parking lots, except connecting highways, as open to all-terrain vehicle ("ATV") or utility terrain vehicle ("UTV") use, except as otherwise posted; sub 2 (b) Under Wis. Stat. s. 23.33 (11)(am)4, the City of Blair authorized the operation of ATVs or UTVs on all state, connecting and county highways with a posted speed limit of 35 MPH or less within the territorial boundaries of the City, except as otherwise posted; sub 2 (c) The City of Blair Police Department may temporarily close any ATV/UTV route whenever conditions, in the Police Chief's discretion, require closure. We replaced the actual routes with the way it is written above, basically opening up areas unless otherwise posted. Only other change for your consideration is in 'sub 3(b)' where a time frame was added, 'ATVs/UTVs may only be operated on authorized street/roads/highways from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. Council did want a time frame but requested change to '7:00 am to midnight (12:00 am). **Motion by C. Ekern to approve this draft of ATV/UTV Ordinance with changes explained by Attorney Radcliffe, with timeframe of 7:00 am to midnight (12:00 am) for hours of use, 2nd by M. Lisowski. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved. REMINDER ATV/UTV OPERATION IN CITY OF BLAIR IS NOT AUTHORIZED UNTIL ORDINANCE IS PUBLISHED AND SIGNS ARE IN PLACE.**

Discuss/Take Action on replacing City Office 'IT' support company, due to resignation: Clerk Frederixon said longtime respected Hanson Consulting wanted to 'cut back' on their workload and since the P.D. has went with MCS, they wondered if we would be ok with them stepping out as City 'IT'. Chief Johnson said a lot of the things MCS has done for P.D. will also benefit the City Office side of things. City Council requested research on cost comparisons between MCS and other companies similar to Hanson's for consideration before making final decision, and bring to a future Council meeting. **Motion by P. Syverson to table until Thursday, 8/5/21 meeting so numbers can be compared, if available, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: Thank you to Hanson's Consulting for doing lots of great things for City. Vote: Yes 6, No 0. Motion approved.**

Discuss/Take Action on Mayor request to use Community Center to provide a meal to Cheese Festival Carnival workers on Saturday night at 11 pm: Council said as long as it could be worked out with the Cheese Festival Board as they have control of the Community Center for that entire weekend.

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

Next Council meeting is September 13, 2021 @ 6:30 pm.

Motion M. Lisowski to adjourn meeting, 2nd C. Ekern. Discussion: None. Vote: Yes-6, No-0. Motion approved.

Susan Frederixon-Clerk/Deputy Treasurer