

Common Council Meeting minutes, September 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: T. Wheeler, J. Tranberg, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Joshua Greenwold-Water/Sewer Manager, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk-Debra Fremstad, Attorney-Mark Radcliffe, Trempealeau County Times-Andrew Dannehy, David Donnelly, Joshua Greenwold, Kelly & Dave Mattison.

Motion by J. Anderson to accept 7/11 & 8/1 Common Council minutes and 8/4, 8/18, and 8/29 Special Council minutes, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: D Stephenson was present at the 8/29 Special meeting, please change. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Kelly Mattison, Blair Area Foundation, spoke of funding for lighting the walking trail. Dave Mattison, Blair Cheese Festival, spoke of funding for the park lighting project.

Motion by C. Ekern to accept Resolution #09-12-2022-1, declaring the work to be done on sewer mains from manhole 78 to 92, 94 to 105, 64 to 65, and 85 to 87 a public emergency in which the public health or welfare of the City of Blair is endangered, pursuant to WI State Statute 62.15 (1b), 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: This resolution is just for this emergency and will have to be voted on to determine when it is no longer an emergency. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Tranberg to accept Ellingson bid for repair of sewer mains mentioned in the resolution, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: J. Greenwold summarized the project. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to accept the following minutes: 8/18/2022 Blair Business Development, 8/22/22 Tax, Finance, & Personnel, 8/29/22 Police/Ordinance, 9/7/22 Water/Sewer, 9/7/2022 Joint Blair & Taylor Park and place on file, 2nd D. Stephenson. Discussion: everyone's attendance at the 9/26/22 Blair Business Development meeting at 6:00 pm needed for downtown improvement walk. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

The Tax, Personnel and Finance Committee recommended not giving out extra vacation time per Chief Johnson's request, trying to budget \$5000 for BIDCO expenses, and starting a water/sewer budget this year. No action needed.

Motion by C. Ekern to accept Police/Ordinance recommendation and add to the fee schedule a \$250 fee each for variances, zoning requests, and conditional use permits, 2nd J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Joint Park Committee informing that solar lighting for main walking trail and Schroeder shelter in park is around \$20,000. J. Tranberg was asked to leave Common Council meeting. **Motion by C. Ekern to accept the Joint Park Committee recommendation and hire Jeremy Tranberg for Blair-Taylor Park & Rec Director for \$6000, 1/2 of which the City of Blair is responsible for,**

2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. J. Tranberg was asked to re-join the Common Council meeting. Motion by C. Ekern to send shower usage in the park and vagrancy issues to Attorney Radcliffe to draft an ordinance for approval in October, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern to send AMPI request to purchase whey pond area to Water/Sewer Committee and set up meeting between AMPI with Attorney Radcliffe, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Stephenson to pay Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals members \$30 per meeting starting January 2023, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by D. Stephenson to start closing the city office on Wednesdays, starting September 21, 2022, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern to go into closed session, pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson for Debra Fremstad to stay for closed session, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Tranberg to reconvene on open session, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to offer Debra Fremstad the Clerk/Treasurer position at a salary of \$60,320, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: Debra will discuss with her family and get back to the Tax, Finance, and Personnel Committee. Vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Building Permit report reviewed.

Motion by D. Stephenson to deny Art Schadel a server application due to recent disorderly conduct that was alcohol related and past 6 DUI's, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: David Donnelly wanted the council to know that Art is only getting a license so that David can go to the bathroom during the day. This Council has already approved Crystal, who had a second pending DUI and you approved her. This is very similar. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-abstain, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried. Attorney Radcliffe will get a denial letter out to Mr. Schadel and let him know he has the right to appeal.

Motion by J. Anderson to approve server applications for: Tammy Berg, Kollin Christenson, Nicole Currier, Samantha Engler, Gwen Kidd, David Mattison, Casey Morse, Gabrielle Pittenger, Timothy Robertson, Ashley Stenberg, Brian Yurske, Anna Wiech, and Dylan

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Woof, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern for Attorney Radcliffe to draw up a lease agreement with QRail for the salt/sand shed, 2nd by T. Wheeler. Discussion: none: Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Anderson to approve vouchers, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, T. Wheeler-yes. Motion carried.

Motion by C. Ekern to adjourn at 8:02pm, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Next Common Council meeting on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Debra Fremstad, City Treasurer/Deputy Clerk