

## COMMON COUNCIL

1/13/2020

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session in the council chambers of the Park Falls city hall at 5:00 PM on Monday, January 13, 2020. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman  
Richard Scharp  
Michael Mader  
Dennis Wartgow  
James Corbett  
Anthony Thier  
Dina Bukachek  
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

Also present: Marvin Nevelier, David Dryer, Bonnie Dryer, Deb Hyde, Brentt Michalek, Seth Carlson, Harley Sampson, Vanessa Gelina, Gail Boushon, Charlotte Bottolofson, Jeff Seamandel, Bryan Box and Mike Boushon.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The minutes of the 12/09/2019 Council meeting and 12/13/2019 Council meeting were presented. Alderman Hoffman pointed out that in the minutes from 12/09/2019 should be “study” instead of student. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve both sets of minutes with the correction noted above. Motion carried.

In communications, Mayor Bablick noted that City Administrator Michalek, Alderman Mader and he went to a meeting on January 8, 2020 with North Lakes Community Clinic to discuss potential locations of a mental health establishment in Park Falls. The Mayor commended everyone for a successful 2019...he knows it has been trying at times. There have been numerous positive comments about the downtown project. Alderman Mader mentioned that the Athletic Field Complex banquet will be taking place on March 14, 2020 at the legion hall. Tickets are \$20 each. Treasurer Smith informed the council that the City received a thank you from the Jim Wegner family for the plant the City had purchased in memory of Jerry Ernst’s father-in-law.

There was no public comment.

Under New Business, there was some discussion in regard to possibly moving the regular scheduled Common Council Meeting to a mutually agreed upon time. There was also some concept discussion on potentially moving to a Committee of the Whole meeting format. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Corbett that the regular scheduled meeting of the council shall be moved to February 24, 2020 at 5 p.m. On February 10, 2020, the Mayor will be calling a Committee of the Whole meeting. (No council action needed for committee of the whole meetings.) Motion carried. There was a discussion in regard to the approval of Bowmar Appraisal Inc. contract amendment for appraisal services. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this amended contract amount of \$12,500. Motion carried, 7-1 with Alderman Hoffman saying no. Next on the agenda was Resolution 20-001: Opposition to bill

limiting TIF powers was presented to the council. After some brief discussion, it was motioned by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve Resolution 20-001. Motion carried.

There was nothing to report for the personnel meeting.

Alderman Bukachek presented the Finance Committee report. There was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the finance minutes of December 9, 2019. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$1,601,547.36. Motion carried, 8-0.

For the Board of Public Works, Jeff Seamandel was attending from MSA Professional Services, Inc. to present the hospital area utilities reconstruction project. There was a motion needed from the council to allow MSA to submit the grant application on behalf of the City. The request will cost the City approximately \$10,000. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to submit this fee and give MSA permission to submit the application on behalf of the City. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Public Services, the liquor license was brought up again for Jack's Corner Bar. All of the paperwork was submitted and the new owner was Vanessa Koller (Gelina). Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Thier to grant this license. Motion carried.

Under the Mayor's report, Mayor Bablick updated everyone on the Park Falls Development, LLC...there are some big decisions to be made and it seems like quite a bit of activity is starting to take place. He also recommended appointing Susanne Dillon to the Housing Authority. Motion made by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this recommendation. Motion carried.

City Administrator/Clerk Michalek informed the council that TIF 5 purchases were almost complete. Just a few more to wrap up in the next couple of weeks hopefully. There was some discussion from the Housing Study Request for Proposal (RFP) and possible county wide involvement. The Cities of Phillips, Park Falls and Prentice and Price County are working together to put together this proposal. If everything goes as planned, the results would be released in August. He also let the council know that we now have a key custody agreement in place for the City Hall building. Other buildings will be following this very soon. This allows a better chain of custody to be put into place for employee keys. The last thing he addressed was the Wage and Compensation Study which will be starting to evolve sometime this month.

City Attorney Schoenborn stated that he has been busy but had nothing to report.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that tax collection is still taking place and reminded everyone that the first half is due by January 31, 2020 or the taxpayer will be subject to interest and penalties on the full balance of the property. City Hall now has a drop box located at the south entrance of the building. A big thank you going out to DPW crew for installing the box. She updated everyone that we will more than likely have five elections this year and the first one is going to be February 18, 2020. Jean Gottwald is planning quite a bit of training for the new voting machines throughout Price County. At 10 a.m. on January 22, 2020, the City of Park Falls will be a host to one of these training sessions. Lastly, she informed the council that Debra Perkins was temporarily placed in the front desk position. More discussion will occur later in closed session on this topic.

Library Director Hyde joyfully told the council that the library floors will be starting to get redone on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. Josh from Minocqua will be sanding everything and will be working on the auditorium, board rooms and the stage. The third floor will be closed for approximately 3 weeks. She also

informed everyone that Static Electric will be working on switching over the lights to LED lights, starting on February 7. This project is projected to last approximately 3 days.

Police Chief Ernst was absent from the meeting because he was attending training in Madison. Sergeant Marvin Nevelier presented the monthly police department report. The SRT team from Lincoln County was in the City on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to help with a warrant.

Fire Chief Reas was not at the meeting but Administrator Michalek reported that there was a fire and Park Falls Hardwoods and they are looking at the potential of adding a sprinkler system at their location. Currently, we do not have the capability to provide this.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart mentioned to the council that the new mechanic, Matt Palecek, has been working out nicely. He talked about extending the watermain on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to try and help accommodate Park Falls Hardwoods' request to have a sprinkler and to also take care of some other issues that may arise in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Roughly, going 250 feet, which would be to the front door of Park Falls Hardwoods' plant, would be \$92,000. Going 400 feet which would be to the intersection, would roughly cost \$123,000. At this point, it is just for discussion, but it will be going to the committee of the whole. He informed the council that the new plow truck will be in operation starting around February 1 and the new ¾ ton pickup is in the process of getting purchased. He finished his report stating that the grader has been out quite a bit trying to keep the roads clear.

Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Recommendation for Administrative Assistant/Deputy Treasurer); and Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Regarding purchase of properties listed below: 126 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South); and Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Discussion and potential action on current labor negotiations between LAW and the City of Park Falls). Motion carried, 8-0.

Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to reconvene into open session to take action, if any. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to ratify the decisions made in closed session, including accepting the appointment of Debra Perkins as Administrative Assistant/Deputy Treasurer, approving the land purchase and authorizing the administrator to sign the LAW agreement. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith  
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk