

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 02/28/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Dan Greenwood
Dixie Weidman
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier – via phone

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Shannon Greenwood, Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Deb Hyde, Marvin Nevelier, Tara Tervort, Laurie Buesing, Robert Singer, Tom Laventure

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

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes for the Common Council meeting on January 23, 2023, Committee of the Whole on February 13, 2023 and Personnel Committee on February 22, 2023. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve the March and April meeting schedule changes. Motion carried. There was a request by the residents of 442 6th Avenue South to allow 5 dogs at their residence. No dogs would be replaced upon death that would put the number over 3. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to allow 5 dogs at this residence until 2 of them pass away. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

There is request from the 'Wednesday Night Live' group to add an additional week on to the already approved 6-week schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Alderman Wartgow made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$1,041,237.19. Motion carried, 6-0. There are two expenditures for the Police Department: \$8,352 for Mobile Data Computers and \$4,026 for Tasers. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the Police Department expenditures. Motion carried, 6-0. There is an expenditure for City Hall for \$2,100.20 for a new mobile AED. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve the City Hall expenditure. Motion carried, 6-0.

Personnel – Nothing to report.

Board of Public Works – There is a request from the Park Falls Chamber of Commerce for use of the downtown park and the pavilion during Flambeau Rama. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the use. There was an amendment to the motion to read meters to track usage. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve with amendment. Motion carried, 6-0. Brentt Michalek gave an update on all MSA projects.

Public Services – Nothing to report.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – Nothing to report.

City Administrator Michalek – The police union has agreed to the modifications to the vacation benefits in their contract. The Park Falls Municipal Airport will be the temporary helicopter landing site during construction at the hospital. Airport Manager Durmeyer was able to get the airport lights working again with the new circuit board installation. The transaction with WATCO is still working through some insurance liability concerns.

Clerk and Treasurer Smith – Election turnout was 14% with 267 voters, the second highest in Price County. There is another election on April 4, 2023. The city is finished collecting R/E taxes.

Library Director Hyde – The book sale is scheduled for March 2, 3, 4 and 6. The Annual Statistics Report was given.

DPW Director Hoffman – The water radio meters are 80% installed, should be wrapped up by March. The City has not had to run a hydrant because of shallow lines yet this year.

Chief of Police Nevelier – There was a search warrant conducted January 31st that resulted in the confiscation of felony amounts of drug and drug paraphernalia. Officer Fohr and Officer Dehmlow both received Lifesaving Awards from an incident that happened November 22nd. The posting for a patrolman has not resulted in any applicants yet, but there was interest expressed through email from an individual who participated in a ride along last week. A letter of benefits was sent to the interested party this week.

At 5:51 there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin State 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 Discussions with YMCA of the Northwoods for city owned property.); and pursuant to Wisconsin State 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 Discussions with Potential Manufacturing and Employment Opportunities on Former Paper Mill Properties.); and C. 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. (Regarding City Administrator Contract.)

At 7:13 there was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to reconvene into open session, for discussion and/or to take possible action on closed session items. Motion carried, 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**Prepared by: Shannon Greenwood, Executive Assistant
SGG/bpm**