

SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL
5/21/2020

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in special session in the library at 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 21, 2020. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor:	Michael Bablick
Aldermen:	Chris Hoffman Richard Scharp Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett---via phone Anthony Thier—via phone Dina Bukachek Dan Greenwood
City Attorney:	Bryce Schoenborn-via phone
City Administrator:	Brentt Michalek

Also present: Tom Ratzlaff, Jerry Ernst, Michelle Smith and the following individuals via phone: Paul Parish, Nick and Shelly Ghere, Ken Pearson, Jeff Belongia, David Dryer, Doug Osterberg and two members of the public.

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

Presentations were heard on the feasibility and analysis of potential “bridge loan” to Park Falls Development, LLC (the mill), in the amount of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars), as prepared by Northwest Regional planning Commission and review proposed terms and conditions of the water usage agreement between the mill and the City of Park Falls. The mayor, Ken Pearson of Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Jeff Belongia gave their feedback on this potential venture. Nick Ghere, the property manager of Park Falls Industrial Management, also spoke on the status of the mill and understands that there is quite a bit of uncertainty considering the previous history with the mill but all of those currently at the mill are working diligently to get it up and running. He is planning on the start up to be between mid June and early July. Paul Parish, the CFO of Park Falls Development, LLC and Doug Osterberg, the Operations Manager of Park Falls Development, LLC also spoke of their expertise that they would be bringing to the mill.

During the public hearing on the above items, Thomas Ratzlaff applauded the mayor, council and the city staff for an excellent job on the agreement. The city is financially much stronger now than what it was in 2006. He fully supports this venture.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to allow city staff to perform all activities required to effectuate the agreement. Motion carried, 8-0.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve Resolution 20-011: Authorizing the City of Park Falls to loan Park Falls Development LLC, the amount of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars). Motion carried, 8-0.

There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to borrow \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) from Forward Bank, per the commitment letter, in order to fulfill “bridge loan” obligations. Motion carried, 8-0.

Shelly Ghere, Director of Finance of Park Falls Industrial Management thanked the mayor and council for everything the city is doing and they are “absolutely going to start production” and the noon whistle should be heard very soon to signify this.

At 5:54 p.m., there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(e) - Deliberating or negotiating the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Initial review of application for TID 5 Developers Agreement; 124 4th Avenue South 50-271-2-40-01-23-5 15-024-16040. Motion carried, 7-0. (Alderman Corbett left the meeting at 5:53 p.m.)

At 6:05 p.m., there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to reconvene into open session. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk