

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 08/28/2023

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

Mayor: Tara Tervort

Aldermen: Terry Wilson
Dixie Weidman
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-Excused

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Deb Hyde, Marv Nevelier, Larry Reas, Scott Schultz, Jeff Seamandel, Benjamin Fox, Ted Thompson, Greg Langner, Karen Langner, Kathy Rose, Lynn Sitte, Steve Sitte, Shane Olla, Deb Richter, Albert Lorr, Judi Grissmeyer and Gary Wollerman.

There was a motion by Alderman Weidman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve 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 July 24, 2023 and Committee of the Whole Meeting on August 14, 2023. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communications to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a property owner, Shane Olla, present to discuss the property located at 754 3rd Avenue North. He is requesting that the City look at this property and would like to have it torn down. There is currently no tenant living at this location. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to have the Administrator setup resolutions to begin the raze order process. Motion carried, 8-0. Administrator Michalek presented informed on the water rate increase that will be going to the PSC for rate case review. Mayor Tervort opened the floor for comments. Lynn Sittee asked what tests are being done for PFAS...is it the bare minimum or other tests being done. The Administrator informed the council and public that the decision about the salmon factory should be made in September. The Administrator also let those present know that the \$3.75 million dollar grant was not allowed to be used for previous expenses; this money can only be used for future projects. Steve Sittee questioned if this was just water or if sewer was included in this increase. Judi Grissmeyer verified with

the council that the grant money needed to be used by December 31, 2024. Kathy Rose asked the council as to why the utility did not raise every year as recommended by some consultants. Benjamin Fox expressed that the rates were already quite high, and he was leery of the utility going any higher. Kathy Rose asked if there were payment plans available to which the Clerk and Treasurer responded that yes, there were options available. Judi Grissmeyer asked if there was a separate fund for equipment or if this was all factored in with the current rates. Gary Wollerman inquired as to what is happening with the mill. Kathy Rose also questioned the mill status and if the city had any new developments for that building. Gary Wollerman wanted to know if Butch Johnson was paying for the leachate that was produced by the mill still. (Yes, he is). Seeing no further questions at 6:31 PM, the Mayor closed public comment. Alderman Greenwood made a motion and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to appoint Michael Bablick, Sr. to the Housing Authority Committee. Motion carried. Alderman Mader made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to appoint Terry Wilson to the Board of Public Works and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried. Albert Lorr was present to discuss the gravel driveway at his house located at 449 7th Avenue South. This item will be discussed at the September meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Wartgow made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$612,369.85. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve the Payment Request #3 from Francis Melvin in the amount of \$505,499.73. Motion carried, 8-0. The Phase 1 Master Plan was discussed for the airport. This will be discussed at a later meeting date. The stewardship grant is now at an amount of \$280,753.00. This is increased from the original amount granted and is to be used in the park. The 2024 budget survey was discussed...Administrator Michalek needs these surveys back asap so he can compile a report of those items.

Personnel – There was nothing to report.

Board of Public Works – The Chamber of Commerce presented a route for the Flambeau 40 bike race. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the route presented. Motion carried. The Park Falls Volunteer Fire & Rescue presented a request for a temporary class B license for September 16, 2023. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve this license. Motion carried. Jeff Seamandel was present from MSA to discuss the updates that are taking place in the City. Judi Grissmeyer made a comment about the potholes on Boettcher Road, which DPW Director Hoffman and Jeff Seamandel said they will look at it and fill, if necessary.

Public Services – Nothing to report.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Tervort– Mayor Tervort welcomed Scott Schultz as the new Parks and Recreation Director. She will be moving the Committee of the Whole meeting in September to the 18th of September. She also invited the Council to attend the League conference that will be taking place from October 18th-October 20^h of this year in Green Bay.

City Administrator Michalek-He informed the Council he would like to know if they are interested in the League Conference by September 8, 2023. There will be the bid opening of the library/city hall renovation on September 7, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Attorney report – Nothing to report.

Clerk & Treasurer Smith – The pool is officially closed.

Library Director Hyde – Informed the Council that Books by Mail will be ending in December and for once, the wood floor is not heaving this time of year!

DPW Director Hoffman – The surplus equipment auction is currently taking place. His crew is also working on sidewalk repairs by themselves now. His crew will hopefully be finishing the dugouts before the snow flies.

Parks & Recreation Director Schultz-There will be a meeting at 5 PM on Thursday, August 31, 2023 for his parks committee.

Chief of Police–The base radio that was ordered in January of 2022 has finally arrived at the police department. He also informed the Council that on August 14, 2023, there was a disturbance on the 700 block of 5th Avenue South.

Fire Chief Reas – All the fire trucks are now recertified for the upcoming year. October 14th will be the open house for the fire department. This will also be the kickoff to the fire prevention week.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM by Mayor Tervort

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer