

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 9/13/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman
David Dryer
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek---excused
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Deb Hyde, Bill Hoffman, Robert Zoubek, Lisa Nagro, Richard Weber, Steve Weber, Lynn Lutz, Rob Biller, Beckie Gaskill and Dixie Weiland.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Public Works – Ordinance discussion and sewer hookup for 549 2nd Street South. It was discovered that 549 2nd Street South is connected with the sewer line of 314 5th Avenue South. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to stub a sewer lateral at 549 2nd Street South to facilitate the sewer work needed. The homeowners would then be responsible for hooking up the sewer from their home to the lateral. Motion carried, 7-0.

Finance – Lynn Lutz and Rob Biller were present from Eagle Audit to explain the 2020 audit. They recommend a 3% rate increase for the water starting with the January 1st billing as the City waits for the PSC determination for the rate study. In addition, they recommend looking at the refuse fund because this will also need an increase to support the needs of that fund. Regarding the budget, whenever an expense is presented and it is not in the budget, a budget amendment must be done (which includes publication in the local paper). Alderman Hoffman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$892,795.54. Motion carried, 7-0. There was Pay Application No. 2 presented from Howard Brothers in the amount of \$56,293.67, Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this pay application. Motion carried, 7-0. City Administrator informed the council that department heads will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to determine their financial needs for the upcoming budget year.

Board of Public Works – The Chamber of Commerce presented a request to use the walking trail starting behind the hospital and to end at Case Avenue (North of Nola Cemetery) on October 30, 2021. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this request. Motion carried, 7-0. City Administrator Michalek informed the council that signatory letters were sent out to all affected residents for the east side alley recommendation. After all letters are turned back in, the City will proceed with filing a claim of alley due to history of maintaining. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to proceed with the recommendation presented from the DPW meeting that the City pay for the CSM, with the maximum being \$10,000. Motion carried, 7-0. Administrator Michalek presented to the council the ideas he shared with the Board of Public Works for the downtown project regarding the layout of the park including the pavilion, bandshell and fencing materials. On Tuesday, September 14th, Brentt will be meeting with MSA to discuss the downtown Park design, progress and next steps. CenturyLink (Lumen) requested an easement through our lift station property to give service to Park Manor. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the easement as long as they stay away from the sewer line. Motion carried.

Public Services – There was discussion regarding the MSA contract for space needs study and preliminary design work. Alderman Mader made a motion and seconded by Alderman Corbett to include the library in this study as a potential permanent site for city hall. Alderman Wartgow requested a voice vote. Motion failed, 3-4, with Aldermen Greenwood, Wartgow, Hoffman and Thier saying no. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve the expenditure of \$20,500 for the study from MSA. Motion carried, 7-0.

Personnel – There was nothing to report.

Administrator update to Committee of the Whole on general city operations – Administrator Michalek informed the council they should start thinking about a new name for the street by the downtown park. He also let the council know they need to revisit the shoreland/wetland zoning ordinance because at the present time, there are not supposed to be new structures built within 1,000 feet of a river. For the billboard payment, Brentt will be picking a spot in the budget and will be presenting that at the next meeting for a budget amendment.

At 6:55 p.m., there was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to convene into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g)-conferring with legal counsel for the governing body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (Regarding Park Falls Development, LLC); and pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g)-conferring with legal counsel for the governing body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (Regarding Wisconsin Paper Personal Property, LLC and Wisconsin Paper Real Property, LLC. Motion carried, 7-0. All the public left except for Administrator Michalek, DPW Director Hoffman, and Clerk and Treasurer Smith.

At 7:38 p.m., there was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to reconvene into open session, for discussion and /or to take possible action on closed session items. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer