

COMMON COUNCIL 09/27/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 27, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

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

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-appeared by phone in closed session

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Michelle Smith, Deb Hyde, Larry Reas, Victor Ambrose, Jacob Syndergaard, Jeff Seamandel, Bill Hoffman and Bonnie Dryer.

There was a moment of silence to remember the one-year anniversary of Officer Mark Richter's passing.

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

Alderman Wartgow made a motion and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes for the August 23, 2021 Common Council meeting; the August 25, 2021 Board of Public Works Committee meeting and the September 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Bablick congratulated Chief Jerry Ernst on 30 years of working for the City of Park Falls. Administrator Michalek mentioned he has been getting some phone calls about the murals downtown. He is suggesting to put money in the budget for murals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Ambrose informed the council that Chequamegon School Board Member Greg Wirsing resigned and they are now looking to fill the open seat in the Town of Fifield.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Michalek informed the council he is requesting alternate representation within the current attorney's firm for prosecution of city ordinance violations. Bryce Schoenborn will be handling all of the representation for the City from this point forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance - Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$216,468.91. Motion carried, 7-0. Melvin Companies pay application no. 4 was presented in the amount of \$449,477.58. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0. Resolution 21-012, 2021 Budget Amendment transferring \$4,000 from City Council-Contracted Services to Planning-Operating Supplies to pay for a billboard located on Highway 51. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Dryer to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 6-1, with Alderman Wartgow saying no. Jacob Syndergaard from Cottingham & Butler was present at the meeting to discuss health insurance options with the council. Mr. Syndergaard is the City's broker for health and dental insurance. Resolution 21-013, Inclusion under the Wisconsin Public Employers' Group Health Insurance program, was presented for approval. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 7-0. The City will not receive an increase in their dental benefit for the 2022 plan year.

Board of Public Works – Jeff Seamandel gave an update on the hospital project. Sayler Signs submitted a proposal to the City of Park Falls to purchase the two City welcome signs. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to have the administrator work with an amicable agreement with the land owners and place the item in the 2022 budget for discussion. Motion carried, 7-0. The Park Falls Chamber of Commerce requested the closing of 2nd Avenue North from Division Street to 1st Street North on October 3, 2021 for the Park Falls Festival of Fright. Motion by Alderman Dryer and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this closure. Motion carried. The final report is not in yet, but in preliminary conversations, the Safety Training building on Case Avenue has a large amount of mold in it and will be unfit for anyone to use in the future.

Public Services – There was nothing to report.

Personnel – Administrator Michalek informed the council that the Airport Manager, Donald “Spike” MacGregor will be retiring on October 8, 2021.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – In his report, he recommended to the council to appointment Victor Ambrose to the Park Falls Planning Commission. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Corbett to approve this appointment. Motion carried.

City Administrator Michalek – The lights are now on in the downtown alley project adjacent to the new park. There will be a planning commission meeting on October 7 to discuss a request from Signature Signs.

Attorney report – nothing to report

Clerk and Treasurer Smith – The redistricting resolution was handed out and will be brought to a vote on the October 11, 2021 meeting.

Library Director Hyde – The numbers for circulation are starting to increase for the library.

DPW Director Hoffman – The City has received an LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) grant in the amount of around \$6,000 to use towards a street project. A possible project is 2nd Street South. There are some trees being planted in the City to replace some of the dead ones that were removed. DPW Director Hoffman said it has been great working with MSA and Melvin on the hospital project.

Chief of Police Ernst – Informed the council that they have been busy and will be helping the school with their homecoming activities.

Fire Chief Reas - He let the council know that they will also be assisting the school with homecoming activities.

At 6:41 PM there was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier 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. Staff remaining included Administrator Michalek, Clerk and Treasurer Smith and DPW Director Hoffman. Attorney Schoenborn joined by phone.

At 7:30 PM., there was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to reconvene into open session, for discussion and /or to take possible action on closed session items. Motion carried, 6-0, Alderman Dryer left at 7:23 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer