

COMMON COUNCIL

9/28/2020

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session in the council chambers of the Park Falls City Hall at 5:00 PM on Monday, September 28, 2020. 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
Richard Scharp
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow-via online
James Corbett-via online
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-excused

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, William Gehrman, Jerry Ernst, Victor Ambrose, Bonnie Dryer, Dave Dryer, Beverly Boehm and those attending online: Pat Doast from BART, and Cliff Knettel from MSA.

There was a moment of silence (25 seconds for 25 years of service) in memory of Officer Mark Richter that passed away suddenly on September 27, 2020. All flags located on city property will be lowered until October 3, 2020 at noon.

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

The minutes of the 8/24/2020 Council and 09/14/2020 Committee of the Whole meetings were presented. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, the Mayor let everyone know that the City has received a \$2,500 donation from the American Legion. Alderman Bukachek inquired if the City Hall offices will be closing again due to the increase in COVID cases in Price County. Treasurer Smith presented an appreciation of thanks certificate to the council from Girl Scouts. Alderman Scharp informed everyone that he will be stepping down/resigning as alderman effective 9/29/2020.

There was no public comment.

Under new business, the council recognized employees who have retired in 2020. William Gehrman-31 years; Joe Jeske-26 years; Phil Bochler-21 years. Resolution 20-015 Recommending amendment to TID #5 Project Plan and Boundaries was presented. Cliff Knettel spoke from MSA with the details of this resolution. If passed by the council, this will go back to the Joint Review Board in October. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. There was an update for the housing study from Cliff Knettel from MSA. The kickoff meeting with the City of Phillips will be taking place on October 1 and the study is expected to be completed by the end of March, 2021. There was some discussion on Halloween trick or treat hours. A decision will be made at the October 12, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting. There was a staff report on planning commission case #20-001, Beverly Boehm request for a conditional use permit for a dog kennel at 421 6th Avenue South, Park Falls. There is a recommendation from the Plan Commission with a vote of 3-1 to deny the request. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by

Alderman Wartgow to accept the recommendation to deny. Motion carried. There was a motion by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to allow a 4th dog at the 421 6th Avenue South address right now with the current owner. Once one of the current dogs passes away, the owner cannot replace the fourth dog. The current ordinance of three dogs will be in place. Motion carried.

Under Finance, there was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$120,342.28. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Board of Public Works, Administrator Michalek presented an encroachment agreement with R-Store (GPM Southeast LLC) for underground storage tanks located at 307 4th Avenue North. According to the agreement, they would have until September 30, 2021 to remove the tanks. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve this agreement. Motion carried. Pat Doast from BART was present at the meeting to discuss a donation agreement between the City and BART. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the donation agreement as presented with the understanding that if no action is taken within 2 years, the land reverts back to the City. Motion carried, 8-0. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to include as condition of sale, an easement for the City sign that is currently located at the corner of 9th Street South and Park Lane. Motion carried. Lastly, there was a PILOT agreement that was discussed with BART as conditions of the sale as well. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve this. Motion carried.

Under Public Services, the council was informed that the Triangle Park pavilion is currently on CN Railroad property and not owned by the City. At the present moment, CN Railroad will not be making any agreements with anyone right now because they are in the process of being sold. This will be a discussion item early next year.

Under Personnel, there was nothing to report.

The Mayor reported that the mill had a successful grand reopening. The goal is to have a paper machine running by the middle of October.

City Administrator and Clerk Michalek informed the council that all buildings are down for the City Center Park project. The 2021 budget will be presented at the next Committee of the Whole meeting in October. An update was also given on all of the raze orders.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that there were 237 absentee voters already for the November 3, 2020 election. In-person voting will begin on October 20th.

Library Director Hyde was not present, but Administrator Michalek let everyone know that the library is now open from 10 am until 6 pm, Monday through Friday. They are still offering curbside pickup.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart was not present.

Police Chief Ernst told the council that his department has been very busy and his latest hire, Jacob Smutzer, will begin work on October 5.

Fire Chief Reas was not present but Alderman Hoffman informed the council that the fire department have been visiting the different fire truck vendors.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to convene into closed session at 6:45 p.m., pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental 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. (Discussion of DNR Asbestos/Demolition Compliance) City staff members Michalek, Smith and Ernst all stayed for closed session.

There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to reconvene into open session at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk