

COMMON COUNCIL

01/25/2021

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, January 25, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

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

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-excused

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Jerry Ernst, Deb Hyde, Scott Hilgart and Jeff Seamandel from MSA

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Dryer to move the Board of Public Works to the first committee report and adopt the agenda with this minor change. Motion carried.

The minutes of the 12/14/2020 Council meeting and 1/11/2021 Committee of the Whole meeting was presented. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, Clerk and Treasurer Smith stated the City received \$106,941.89 in interest from Forward Bank. Alderman Mader asked if the food pantry times could be put on the library electronic sign. Alderman Thier expressed a concern about ice fishing taking place on the river by Hines Park.

There was no public comment.

Under Board of Public Works, Jeff Seamandel from MSA informed the council that they are 45% done with the plans for the hospital area. He has created a letter with 17 common questions that should go out to the affected residents in the hospital area. He and Scott Hilgart looked at an area approximately 1.3 miles from the site (near the airport) which would be used to store excess material for the project. City Administrator Michalek presented the board with a proposal for asbestos inspection with lead paint sampling for four (4) raze order homes. 184 and 172 2nd Avenue North; 498 Avery Avenue and 577 2nd Avenue in the amount of \$8,490. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve this proposal. Motion carried, 8-0. City Administrator Michalek informed the council that the proposal from CenturyLink for the alleyway work from 2nd Street North to Division Street would cost \$28,466.52. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this proposal. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Finance, Alderman Greenwood made a motion and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the bills of \$168,264.55. Motion carried, 8-0. City Administrator Michalek presented Resolution 21-001: Consideration of the issuance of a raze order under 66-0413 for 577 2nd Avenue North. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve this resolution. Motion carried.

Under Public Services, the agreement between the Northwest Regional Planning Commission for the Community Development Block Grant-Revolving Loan Fund Housing Administration Fund Services was presented to the council from the Committee of the Whole. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve this agreement. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Personnel, the Covid-19 policy update was presented. There was discussion to use existing sick leave first and then full-time employees are able to bank 80 hours. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the covid policy with provision 2 removed. Motion carried.

The Mayor had nothing to report.

City Administrator Michalek informed the council that Jeff Euclide from the hospital contacted him and they would be meeting very soon in regard to the ambulance agreement and the ambulance garage. He informed the council members they should be seeing the completed personnel policy at a future council meeting. The City logo/branding ideas will be presented on February 8th. The BART bus land sale is completed and the financing for the TIF projects, hospital area project and CIP projects will be completed in March.

Clerk and Treasurer Smith informed the council that there will be an election on February 16th which will include the primary for State Superintendent of Schools. Property tax collection will take place multiple times this week.

Library Director Hyde let everyone know curbside pickup is going well and there is no charge for faxes/copies right now. The newly purchased stove is now mounted on brackets and will be attached to the stage.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart had nothing to report.

Police Chief Ernst informed the council that he received a grant of \$10,000 to upgrade the police system software.

Fire Chief Reas was excused from the meeting.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to convene into closed session at 6:27 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); and pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Discussion and potential action on current labor negotiations between LAW and the City of Park Falls). Motion carried, 8-0. City staff members Michalek, Ernst and Smith stayed for closed session.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to reconvene into open session at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer