

COMMON COUNCIL 11/29/2021

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, November 29, 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-via phone
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, Jeff Seamandel, Bill Hoffman, Tom Ratzlaff, Victor Ambrose, Doug Leitl, Derek Chambers, Tom LaVenture and Kurt Damrow.

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

Alderman Mader made a motion and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve the minutes for the October 25, 2021 Common Council meeting and the November 15, 2021 Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Bablick thanked the Chamber of Commerce for successful events with Halloween and Christmas tree lighting. He also introduced Tom LaVenture from the Price County Review. Alderman Bukachek thanked Ann Wojcieszak for donating the free movie that played on Small Business Saturday. Mayor Bablick also thanked Treml Tree Farm for donating the tree that was at Triangle Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Ratzlaff thanked the mayor and the council for all of their hard work and time with the mill situation. Derek Chambers thanked the council for renovating the downtown but had a concern about the scale ramp in the alley by 3rd Avenue South, and also a house (421 3rd Avenue South) that could potentially result in an explosion because there is a gas main located on a building that is collapsing. Doug Leitl also expressed his concerns on this issue. Victor Ambrose informed the council that the school is now looking for a long term school superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Michalek presented the 2022 Budget. Resolution 21-016 was presented to approve the budget for the 2022 year as presented after no public comment was noted. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to move the December Common Council meeting from December 27 to December 13. Motion carried. Alderman Mader made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to allow Catkins to use the fire hall for spaying and neutering of cats on December 8, 2021. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance - Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$122,843.35. Motion carried, 8-0. Melvin Companies presented pay application No. 5 in the amount of \$384,903.32. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve this pay application. Motion carried, 8-0.

Board of Public Works – Jeff Seamandel gave an update on the MSA projects taking place in the City.

Public Services – There was nothing to report.

Personnel – There was nothing to report.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – Nothing to report.

City Administrator Michalek – Has been working on the budget for 2022 and has nothing further to announce.

Attorney report – Nothing to report

Clerk and Treasurer Smith – Reminder to the Aldermen on the North side of the table that terms expire next year. Nomination papers are available starting on December 1.

Library Director Hyde – Tree decorating will take place at 10 AM on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Wendy Teeters will be retiring at the end of this year.

DPW Director Hoffman – Christmas decorations are up throughout the City.

Chief of Police Ernst – The drug sniffing dogs were in the school today and fortunately, found nothing.

Fire Chief Reas- The final inspection for the truck will take place on December 17, 2021.

At 6:24 PM there was a motion by Alderman Dryer and seconded by Alderman Mader 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 discussion of backup leachate agreement between the City of Park Falls and Park Falls Operator, 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 paper mill liquidation) Motion carried, 8-0. Staff remaining included Administrator Michalek, Clerk and Treasurer Smith, Chief Ernst, Kurt Damrow and DPW Director Hoffman. Attorney Schoenborn and Paula Leier-Engelhardt joined by phone. (Kurt Damrow and Paula Leier-Engelhardt left after first item)

At 7:26 PM., there was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to reconvene into open session, for discussion and /or to take possible action on closed session items. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer