

COMMON COUNCIL

12/09/2019

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, December 9, 2019. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman
Richard Scharp
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Larry Reas, Pete Maynard, David Dryer, Bonnie Dryer, Deb Hyde, Brentt Michalek, Seth Carlson, Harley Sampson, Victor Ambrose, Gail Boushon, Ray Poetzl, Dan Boerst, Tara Tervort and Mike Boushon.

The minutes of the 11/11/2019 Council meeting were presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, Treasurer Smith mentioned that BP now has pizza cards where a portion of the sales would benefit the Athletic Complex.

There was no public comment.

Under New Business, the council heard and seen the 2020 budget presentation and review by City Administrator/Clerk Michalek. (See attachment A for the budget information that was handed out at the meeting). The refuse and recycling fund will have to be looked at more closely in the upcoming year. Our expenses are way over the revenue amounts that are being collected. There was no discussion from the floor with reference to the budget presentation. The full budget will be approved at the December 13, 2019 special meeting. City Administrator/Clerk Michalek discussed the housing study request for proposal (RFP) and possible county wide involvement. He will be discussing this with the county at the December 17th executive committee meeting. He is figuring that the amount that it will cost will be roughly around \$20,000-\$30,000. The Chequamegon School District presented an agreement to the council that would provide reimbursable emergency shelter space at City Hall. Alderman Mader made a motion to approve this agreement as written with Alderman Thier seconded this motion. Alderman Hoffman brought up the fact that the shelter provider should be the council chambers. Alderman Hoffman made an amendment to the original motion to have new language written into the agreement that specifically states that the shelter provider be listed as the council chambers. Alderman Wartgow seconded this amendment. Motion carried.

City Administrator/Clerk Michalek informed the council that he is still in negotiations with Labor Association of Wisconsin (LAW) regarding the PFPD. He will probably be bringing something forward in January. Mr. Michalek also informed the council that there will be a payout of 465.75 hours of comp. time by the employees due to the fact that they are not allowed to carry over for WRS reasons. 36 hours can be carried

into the next year for this year and the department heads will be keeping track of all comp. time to make sure this is followed.

Alderman Bukachek presented the Finance Committee report. There was a motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the finance minutes of November 11, 2019. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$252,960.90. Motion carried, 8-0. Resolution No. 19-007 was presented to the council which was Designating Officials Authorized to Declare Official Intent Under Reimbursement Bond Regulations. More specifically, it is listing the offices of the City Administrator and City Treasurer. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to accept this motion. Motion carried. Number 19-007A which was the Declaration of Official Intent "In Regards to TIF 5" was tabled to after item 13 (which is closed session) with a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood. Motion carried.

For the Board of Public Works, a request to use City Hall and City Streets for the December 28, 2019 Tuscobia Ultra Start was heard. Mayor Bablick recognized Gail Boushon to address any concerns/comments that the council may have. Michael Bablick and Michael Mader will be here from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. when the City Hall doors are open. Alderman Wartgow motioned to allow this request with a second from Alderman Hoffman. Motion carried. The pool job descriptions were handed out and Alderman Greenwood made a motion to approve the pool job descriptions as presented. Alderman Mader seconded this request. Motion carried, 8-0. The Mayor recommended hiring Frank Lasiowski as the Pool Maintenance Manager due to the fact that he is licensed and this would take the burden off of the individual in charge of the lifeguards. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this recommendation. Motion carried.

Under Public Services, Jack's Corner Bar applied for a liquor license but the correct paperwork was not turned in. There was a motion by Alderman Corbett and seconded by Alderman Mader to postpone this application until necessary paperwork is turned in to the City. Motion carried.

Under the Mayor's report, Mayor Bablick updated everyone on the Park Falls Development, LLC which is now the mill owner. Flambeau River Papers does not exist. The new company is making a good faith effort to try and get the mill up and running again.

City Administrator/Clerk Michalek recommended that the list of election workers for the election years 2020 and 2021 be approved (see attachment B for list of workers). Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve this list. Motion carried. Mr. Michalek informed the council that the ice rink personnel and the city has come to an agreement with the open skate dates and there will be five dates that the rink will be offering free admission and free skate rental to all that show up....the dates are October 19, November 27, December 23, December 26 and February 28 with a time of noon until 2 p.m. on all of those days. He also reminded everyone that the deadline is January 7, 2020 for all nomination papers to be turned in to the Clerk's office.

City Attorney Schoenborn had nothing to report.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that tax collection will be in full force very soon. The bills be going out on Monday, December 16. There will be collection during normal business hours and just a reminder that the hours for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are 8:30-noon on both days.

Library Director Hyde mentioned that the "Food for Fines" brought in over 200 items. Santa visited the library on Friday, December 6 and he was able to meet with 117 young patrons.

Police Chief Ernst presented the monthly police department report. Just in case anyone questions the culling of deer at the airport, on November 18th, a group of 6 individuals (mostly police officers but there was

also a game warden with) harvested one deer. They also fixed some fence that was broken. He also reminded everyone that he needs to be informed if there are any locations that are not being shoveled for snow so he can address the property owner. He also let the council know that they will be interviewing for the administrative assistant on Thursday of this week.

Fire Chief Reas reported that his department has had two structure fires to respond to in the past month.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart presented his monthly report that included moving a lot of snow.

At 6:18 p.m., the Mayor called for a five-minute break to prepare for the presentation on the downtown redevelopment and revitalization proposal.

At 6:23 p.m., Mayor Bablick presented a very informative presentation on the Downtown Redevelopment and Revitalization Proposal. Michael Boushon asked if the Wells Fargo building was included in the Redevelopment and yes, it is. Victor Ambrose commended the council with having the courage to make an investment in our City. Ray Poetzl stated that he liked seeing the improvements and glad the City is taking the first steps.

The next item was to consider the letter of intent from Forward Bank. See attachment C for this letter. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Scharp to accept this letter. Motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Regarding purchase of properties listed below: 354 1st Street South; 135 4th Avenue South; 149 4th Avenue South; 180 3rd Avenue South; 184 3rd Avenue South; 176 3rd Avenue South; 155 3rd Avenue South; and 168 3rd Avenue South) and, in accordance with Wisconsin State 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. (Recommendation for Mechanic Position). Motion carried, 8-0.

Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to reconvene into open session to take action, if any. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the amount of \$518,000 for the purchase of the properties listed above. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve Matthew Palecek as the new mechanic for the City of Park Falls. Motion carried, 8-0. Motion to approve the Number 19-007A, which is the Declaration of Official Intent "In Regards to TIF 5". Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to adopt this recommendation from the finance committee. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk