

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 03/13/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 13, 2023. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman
Dixie Weidman-Excused
Michael Mader
Dennis Wartgow
James Corbett
Anthony Thier
Dina Bukachek
Dan Greenwood

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Bill Hoffman, Shannon Greenwood, Deb Hyde, Jeff Seamandel, Jennifer Trader and 50 community members.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to amend the agenda per the following suggestions: Move Item 7 to after Item 8; Move Item 9A2 to after Item 12; and Removal of Item 11B. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes for the Common Council meeting on February 28, 2023. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communications.

NEW BUSINESS

An application from Park Falls Plumbing & Heating was presented for the façade improvement project loan. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the paperwork. Motion carried. There was a presentation by Mayor Michael Bablick regarding the City Hall/Library consolidation. After the presentation, the Mayor opened the floor for public comments: Gary Wollerman stated this was a great proposal to move. The library is underutilized right now. Tammy Hastings asked about option of taking a building downtown as the new city hall. She then asked if the CEP/Chamber offices were given notice. Administrator Michalek responded that they will be served notice if the motion is approved. Michael Homann spoke on behalf of the Library Board thanking the council and administration for supporting the library. He stated that the majority of the library board feels moving the city hall to the library is the best solution. Services would not be compromised, as noted by Library Director Hyde. Tammy Hastings asked about an increase in parking and this is something the City will address as needed. Kate Leidl asked when the move would be happening....Administrator Michalek responded by this fall. Tara Tervort shared that she feels this would generate more foot traffic in the library. Sandy Kennedy asked if a library needs/space analysis was done. She also wanted to know about the police/fire building. Joan Buraglio had a concern about disgruntled adults and how the City would handle sex offenders coming into the library. Michael Homann responded that he could see the library putting panic buttons and the city administrator suggested placing cameras into the library. Gary Wollerman said that the police/fire building could go to the DNR building. Tara Tervort asked if there was any legal paperwork that could be implemented to stop the city from creating more space from the library. Michael Homann pointed out that the library is a very popular place and if any future council members wanted to change anything, they would have an uphill battle. Kathy Rose asked where the Library Director was going to be having their office. Library Director Hyde responded that they are looking into different options right now and she said it was open for discussion. She also stated that “the library is in its 100th year and we are inviting city hall back home”. Gary Koski was wondering about the loss of space in the library. Michael Homann responded that their will still be quiet space that will be available in the library. Judy

Grissmeyer asked if the library would be losing activities on the 3rd floor. Library Director Hyde stated that temporary walls will possibly be put up and nothing will be lost. Tara Tervort and Michael Homann both commented that there has always been a good relationship with the library and the City and the library board has full control of how they would like the library laid out. Sandy Kennedy asked if the council meetings would be in the auditorium on the 3rd floor. Sue Reinke mentioned that there has not been a full discussion on meetings that she is aware of yet. Kathy Rose asked where the council table will go and if it is to be destroyed, Lisa Ottosen asked if the table can be repurposed. Bill Rominske asked about the memorial site. Mayor Bablick invited Allie Plessner up to talk about this and the potential for the YMCA using City Hall. She stated that was in the works right now with the American Legion. The YMCA is interested in taking over the current city hall location and Ms. Plessner went through the logistics of that presentation. Joseph Oskvarek stated that the Legion did take over money for Old Abe and was discussing the monument at their meeting. Kathy Rose asked if city hall was going to be torn down. Allie responded that the intention is to reuse the space with some programs that will have a cost & also provide childcare. At one YMCA location, Security Health actually provides free memberships for those individuals 65 years and older. Ms. Rose also asked if there was going to be a pool put in to the YMCA. At this point, both the city pool and the school pool would be utilized because the funding is not there for a new pool to be installed at the YMCA. Steve Sitte thinks this move will increase the number of patrons to the library. Tammy Hastings thinks this is a fantastic idea and the City should bite the bullet and turn the city hall over to the YMCA. Tom Petroski asked if the YMCA looked at the empty property behind the school for their building. Allie responded that they did look at that location but did not feel it was in the best interest of the YMCA. Sandy Kennedy asked what is the timeline for the move. Kate Leitl asked how much money needed to be fundraised yet for this project to be complete. Allie responded with between 500K-1 million. Gary Wollerman asked if the City was dumping water this year. Skyler Dural-Eder complimented the mayor and council for clearing up all of the facebook negativity. Public comment ended at 6:53 p.m. Most individuals left but Sandy Kennedy, Ryan Plessner, Jeff Seamandel, Tara Tervort, Tom LaVenture, Tara Martinez, Terry Wilson, Allie Plessner, Steve Sitte and Jennifer Trader stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Hoffman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$187,390.68. Motion carried, 7-0. Alderman Hoffman asked if the bills have to be approved. Attorney Schoenborn will look into this concern. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to accept the fireworks agreement in the amount of \$6,000. (\$500 from the City; \$250 from the Town of Lake; \$5,250 from Friends of the Legion).

Personnel-There was nothing to report.

Board of Public Works – There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve the athletic complex expense for the concession stands in the amount not to exceed \$13,000. This is to be split 50/50 with the Chequamegon School District. DPW Director Hoffman will seek possible alternatives. A request was presented from the Park Falls Recreational Arena to approve an electronic sign. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve this request. Motion carried. The following CDBG Resolutions were presented to the council for approval: Resolution 23-003: Outdoor Recreation Grant Applications; Resolution 23-005: Resolution to adopt a policy to prohibit the use of excessive force; Resolution 23-006: Resolution to submit a CDBG application; Resolution 23-007: Resolution authorizing the City to commit match funds for CDBG projects; Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve all of the resolutions and to adopt a Wisconsin Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Motion carried, 7-0. There was a revised 1st and 2nd Avenue watermain material quotes given by Ferguson and Core & Main. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the quote from Ferguson in the amount of \$126,016.50. Motion carried, 7-0. Jeff Seamandel updated on the MSA projects taking place in the City.

Public Services – Nothing to report.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Bablick – Nothing to report.

City Administrator Michalek-Nothing to report.

Attorney report – Nothing to report.

Clerk & Treasurer Smith – There is an upcoming election on April 4. Terry Wilson has registered as a write-in for the 2nd District. Summer help applications are now available at this time.

Library Director Hyde – The Books by Mail Clerk is leaving. That program will be run by volunteers at this point.

DPW Director Hoffman – There is a job opening posted for a DPW worker.

Chief of Police–The City received a job applicant for the vacant police department position.

Fire Chief Reas – Responded to the fire at Park Falls Hardwoods recently.

At 7:27 PM there was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin State 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 Letter of Intent with YMCA of the Northwoods for City Hall Property.); and pursuant to 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. (Applicant recommendation for the Patrolman position with the Park Falls Police Department.) discussions with potential manufacturing and employment opportunities on former paper mill properties.) City staff Smith, Greenwood, Nevelier, Reas, Hoffman and Michalek stayed for closed session. Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion to reconvene into open session and take possible action on closed session items by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood at 8:02 PM. Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to include the following paragraph in the proposal for the agreement with the YMCA: Now therefore, be it resolved, the City Administrator shall have all powers necessary to effectuate the renovation/vacation, concurrent with the presentation given to the City Council on March 13, 2023, and shall update the City Council from time to time on progress. Motion carried. Motion by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve Resolution 23-004: Authorized amendment to the 2023 budget as amended. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM

Michelle M. Smith
Clerk and Treasurer