

**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**03/22/2021**

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, March 22, 2021. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor:	Michael Bablick
Aldermen:	Chris Hoffman-excused David Dryer Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett 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, William Hoffman, Jeff Seamandel from MSA and on the phone, Patrick Skalecki from GRAEF.

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

The minutes of the 2/22/2021 Council meeting, 3/8/2021 Committee of the Whole meeting and Personnel Committee meetings of 3/2/2021, 3/15/2021, 3/16/2021 and 3/18/2021 were presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, Alderman Thier noted that he was contacted by some employees and there are some concerns regarding employment. Clerk and Treasurer Smith stated that the fraud survey reports are due to her soon for the upcoming audit.

There was no public comment.

Under new business, Administrator Michalek asked for clarification on the meeting dates for April. It was decided that the reorganizational meeting will be on April 20 (per State Statue) and the regular council meeting will be on April 26.

Under Finance, Alderman Greenwood made a motion and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the bills of \$253,116.57. Motion carried, 7-0. Cornerstone Properties of Park Falls, LLC requested the distribution of the second half of the developer's award which is \$50,000. There are expected to have their Mexican restaurant open by Flambeau Rama. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to disburse the 2<sup>nd</sup> half to them. Motion carried, 7-0. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Corbett to approve the expenditure of \$500 for the 2021 Fireworks Display. (\$250 would be coming from the Town of Lake; \$4,250 from the American Legion for a total of \$5,000). Motion carried, 7-0.

Under Board of Public Works, Patrick Skalecki from GRAEF presented a recommendation to the council for the alley reconstruction project. Bid opening took place on March 4, 2021 and there were five bids. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Corbett to award the bid to Howard Brothers in the amount of \$343,878.10. Motion carried, 7-0. Jeff Seamandel from MSA informed the council that there will be

a zoom meeting on March 25 at 2 p.m. for the bid opening for the hospital project. At this point, there are nine contractors interested. Jeff also presented a scope of services contract for the hospital area project funding applications and administration in the amount of \$55,800. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this expenditure. Motion carried, 7-0. Resolution No. 21-005: Authorizing representative to file applications for financial assistance from State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund and Resolution No. 21-006: Declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures was presented and a motion was made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve these two resolutions. Motion carried. American Asphalt presented a bid for Saunders Avenue and River Road projects in the amount of \$259,691.30. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve this bid. Randy Musack purchased a hangar at our airport and the lease was presented to the council for approval. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Dryer to approve this lease. Motion carried.

There was nothing to report under public services.

Under Personnel, City Administrator Michalek presented the personnel policy for adoption. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to adopt the manual. Motion carried, 7-0. Last year, the City was going to investigate having a company do our cross-connections instead of having one of our employees do it because the cost was roughly around \$67,000. The cost for an outside firm to do this is now \$122,000 and therefore, someone from the DPW crew will be assigned this duty. The Mayor made a recommendation to appoint Sean Kennedy to the Park Falls Fire and Rescue Department. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this appointment. Motion carried.

The Mayor had nothing to report.

City Administrator Michalek informed the council that he is currently waiting on the asbestos report on the raze order properties. He also will be having the final review coming soon for the city logo and branding.

Clerk and Treasurer Smith informed the council that there will be an election on April 6, 2021.

Library Director Hyde let everyone know that the number of users for the library was down but this is due to COVID. She will not be opening the library doors to the general public until all of her staff is vaccinated.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart thanked the council for finding a replacement for his upcoming retirement. Sweeping around the City is going well and potholes are getting patched.

Police Chief Ernst informed the council that they did two drug searches in the past month. In addition, winter parking is technically still in place but he is suspending enforcement right now.

Fire Chief Reas informed the council of a couple of calls they responded to and also let the council know that Pierce representatives will be here on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March with blueprints.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Corbett to convene into closed session at 6:50 p.m., 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. (Consideration of appointment of the new Director position with the Department of Public Works), 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) and 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 property within the City limits, for consideration of eminent domain). Motion carried, 7-0. City staff members Michalek, Ernst, Hoffman, Hilgart and Smith stayed for closed session. After the first item, Hilgart and Hoffman left closed session.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to reconvene into open session at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried, 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith  
Clerk and Treasurer