

COMMON COUNCIL
7/8/2019

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session in the council chambers of the Park Falls city hall at 5:02 PM on Monday, July 8, 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: Steve Kubacki, Jerry Ernst, Peg Zaemisch, Pete Maynard, Daniel Leitl, David Dryer, Phil Bochler, Jason Short, Harley Sampson and Joseph Oskvarek.

The minutes of the 6/10/19 Council meeting were presented. Moved by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, Mayor Bablick informed the council of a thank you card the City received from Frank Kempf's family. The Mayor also informed everyone that the City was the recipient of the water fluoridation award. Lastly, the planning commission met on June 27 and will be meeting again on July 25.

In public comment, Harley Sampson informed the council that there is an issue with the intersection of 5th Street and 7th Avenue South; cars are blocking the view of being able to proceed safely. Michael Mader let the council know that the bleacher slab was poured on July 8.

Alderman Wartgow had nothing to report for the Personnel report.

Alderman Bukachek presented the Finance Committee report. Moved by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Scharp to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$476,977.85. Motion carried. There was a brief discussion from the Mayor in regards to the banking bids. He received three bids for the certificates of deposit and all of them are lower than what the City is receiving at the present time. Moved by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Mader to leave things the way they are right now and to reject the bids. Before the vote could be taken, Daniel Leitl interrupted the proceeding and argued with those present on how the higher interest rate for the certificate of deposits were achieved. Accusations about the bleachers and Forward Bank were spoken against the mayor and the whole council and Mr. Leitl

was declared out of order. A few heated discussions followed before Mr. Leidl abruptly left the meeting. The question was called by Alderman Hoffman and the motion was carried by a voice vote to leave things the way they are right now.

Alderman Thier presented the BPW report. Moved by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes from the Public Works Committee of the Whole on July 1, 2019. Motion carried. There were quite a few recommendations from the BPW to council to approve from the meeting which were all approved with a motion from Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier. The recommendations were as follows: Chamber of Commerce request for helicopter landing on the football field during Flambeau Rama on August 3, 2019; a renewal for the only chicken coop permitted in the City; transfer station improvements (a free standing building addition), not to exceed \$20,000; a picnic license for the 4th of July for the American Legion and SCADA improvements, not to exceed \$200,000.

Alderman Mader presented the Public Services Committee report. The following picnic licenses were presented for the upcoming Flambeau Rama festivities: Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce requested from 8/1/2019-8/4/2019 for the Flambeau Rama grounds; American Legion Post 182 requested from 8/2/2019-8/4/2019 for the Flambeau Rama Softball fields; Park Falls Fire Department requested from 8/2/2019-8/4/2019 for the Fireman's stand near the arena and the Knights of Columbus requested on 8/3/2019 right in front of the Pal Café on Division Street for the Arts and Crafts Fair. Moved by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the licenses. Motion carried.

Under the Mayor's report, Mayor Bablick appointed the following individuals to the respective offices for the Fire Department: Chief Larry Reas; Asst. Chief Phil Bochler; Captains Ken Zierer and Bill Hoffman; Lieutenants Chris Hoffman, Grant Tesnow, Jim Koller and Andy Bushman; and Secretary/Treasurer Kim Cuddeback. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to accept these appointments. Motion carried with Alderman Hoffman abstaining. Mayor Bablick appointed Michael Mader to the Plan Commission. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this appointment, motion carried. The Mayor then introduced Jason Short as an intern for the City. Mr. Short has been working on compiling some data for the budget and has been doing a great job. Mayor Bablick then started some discussion on possibly going to committees of the whole and not having individual committee meetings. More information on this will follow at future meetings. Next the mayor reviewed the ordinance in regards to the pay of the Council and started some discussion about simplifying the pay schedule. No action was taken but this will be discussed more at a later date. Lastly, Mayor Bablick recognized Michelle Smith and Tammy Casey for the fine work that they have been doing in the office.

Interim Administrator Steve Kubacki presented his report. TIF #4 status was discussed. Steve has been working with Dave from MSA on the scope and boundaries. This will be something that will be discussed in the near future. Mr. Kubacki informed the council that the City of Park Falls and the Chequamegon School District now have an agreement for the maintenance of the fields—Robin Mahn will be in charge of the maintenance of the football/track/baseball area and the little league/pool area. The school will bill the City for ½ of the expenses that occur. Steve, Mayor Bablick and Michelle met with Rob Biller from Eagle

Audit and a brief presentation was given from the 2018 audit. The current fund balance in the general fund is very healthy, which is excellent news. The water and refuse is something the council needs to keep a close eye on...the refuse rates have not changed since 2011 and will have to be looked at with this year's budget. The lack of water being used by the mill has affected the water account and this is something to also consider at the budget for 2020. Mr. Kubacki informed the board that this year's budget will be performance budgeting which will give the council a better understanding of the expenses of the City. Department heads will be meeting with Steve on Thursday, July 11 to go over this. A general outline was given on employee performance evaluations. Steve gave an update on the City Administrator recruitment. There are eight semifinalists that will be submitting a video interview that will be viewed on July 22. At that time, the City Council will select finalists who will then attend an interview/assessment process that is scheduled for the week of August 5th. Looking at having the new administrator in place by late August or early September. Steve also gave an update on job descriptions for all City employees. Steve, Mayor Bablick and Michelle met with Jeff from JB Disposal to discuss the solid waste/recycling agreements...the City has contracts with JB until December 31, 2020, but initial discussions have started to take place in regards to costs of both the solid waste and recycling. Lastly, Steve updated everyone on the business park land acquisition that he has been working on with the Wisconsin DNR. The site is located North West of Count E and Tower Road. It is DNR property that is not being used right now. The City is hoping the DNR will transfer the land to the City for economic development reasons.

City Attorney Schoenborn had nothing to report for his report.

Interim Clerk and Treasurer Smith reported that new camping fee signs are being placed at Hines Park because all of the sites now have sewer and she also asked the Council for help with the City's slot for the Flambeau Rama Chamber stand.

Police Chief Ernst presented the monthly police department report. He reported that on June 16th there was a drug interdiction on 9th Avenue that took place in the Town of Lake and on June 24th there was also a search warrant on that same house. In addition, on June 26th, there was a domestic incident that took place at Hines Park.

Water & Street Superintendent Hilgart was on vacation so no report was given from his department.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 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 City landfill on Maple Ridge Rd.) And also 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. (Regarding ongoing proceedings of Flambeau River Papers, LLC.) Motion carried.

There was a motion to return to open session by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood. Motion carried. No action needed for closed session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Interim Clerk and Treasurer