

COMMON COUNCIL
9/9/2019

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

Mayor: Michael Bablick

Aldermen: Chris Hoffman -- Excused
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, Tara Tervort, David Dryer, Phil Bochler, Bonnie Dryer, Harley Sampson, Brentt Michalek, Nick Trimner, Dave Rasmussen, Krissy Trimble, Marvin Nevelier, Robert Zoubek, Victor Ambrose, Steve Gustafson, Tod McCarthy, Lynda Dayton, Linda Bukachek, Pete Bushman, Tony Renvick and Matt Schultz

The minutes of the 8/12/19 Council meeting were presented. Moved by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, Mayor Bablick informed the council the City received a thank you from Robin Mahn and Kevin Brunner. In addition, city emails will be given out to all alderman and 50 business cards will be supplied to each alderman. Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that the City received a thank you card from the Tim Smith family for a bouquet of flowers they sent for Tim's funeral.

In public comment, Pete Maynard from the Chamber let the council know that they had a successful Flambeau Rama follow up meeting and they will be having Flambeau Rama from Friday until Sunday next year. The craft fair times will be shortened from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Victor Ambrose, President of CSD, let the council know that the first strategic planning meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10 from 6-8 p.m. in Park Falls. The second meeting will be on the 1st of October from 6-8 p.m. in Glidden. In addition, there will be a couple of listening sessions coming up in September. The first one will be on Tuesday, September 17 in Glidden from 6-8 p.m. and the second one will be on Thursday, September 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the Park Falls Public Library.

Plan Commission Recommendations were as follows: Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Scharp to approve creating a 3-parcel certified survey map of Part of the

West ½ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 13, Township 40 North, Range 1 West. Motion carried. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve the Resolution No. 19-004 Creation of Tax Incremental Finance District No. 5. Before a vote was taken, there was a motion by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to open the floor to comments. Lynda Dayton asked how the TIF District works (Dave Rasmussen answered explaining that any amount generated above the tax base amount as of January 1, 2019, that amount (tax increment) stays within the tax district for new development/redevelopment. {This is called the tax increment...difference from base amount and new development} All taxing jurisdictions still get the January 1, 2019 value of taxes. Usually, the TID is open for 27 years but it can close early. Once it closes, all taxing jurisdictions will get the full value of the properties and not just the base amount.) Tara Tervort asked what is new development (Mayor Bablick responded with the “But For” clause and also stated that the City Council has full authority to spend the money that is created within the TID---tax increment—however they wish as long as it is within reason for the redevelopment/new development within the TID.) Seeing no further comment, Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader made a motion to close the floor to comments. A roll call vote was taken for the approval of resolution No. 19-004 and it passed, 7-0.

Alderman Wartgow presented the Personnel Committee report. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve the personnel minutes of September 5, 2019. Motion carried. The council was informed that negotiations are starting with the Labor Association of Wisconsin (LAW). There was a recommendation to promote Marvin Nevelier to Sergeant from the Personnel Committee. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this recommendation. Motion carried. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to allow the administrator to fill the position of the retiring current mechanic in the best means possible; motion carried.

Alderman Bukachek presented the Finance Committee report. There was a motion by Alderman Scharp and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the finance minutes of August 12, 2019. Motion carried. Moved by Alderman Scharp and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$306,627.39. Motion carried, 7-0. There was a recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the repairs needed for the steam boiler in the amount not to exceed \$9,868. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this recommendation. Motion carried, 7-0.

Alderman Thier opened five bids for the timber sale on airport property. The bids are as follows: Woody Brothers Logging-\$11,197.00. RM Bay Logging-\$12,390.00. Wohlleben Logging, Inc.-\$11,500.00. Futurewood Corp.-\$9,290.00. Richard Hoeft-\$15,200.00. There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to award the bid to Richard Hoeft. Motion carried, 7-0. Alderman Thier presented some requests from the Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce for their Fall Festival on September 28, 2019. Because there were some questions, Mayor Bablick recognized Pete Maynard to speak to the council. The first was the closing of 2nd Avenue from Division to 1st Street North and 1st St. North to 1st Ave. North to River Road from 10 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. The second request was to use Triangle Park and close 3rd Ave. S from Division to Hwy. 182 from 10:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. Alderman Wartgow made a motion that was seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the route on 1st Ave. N for the run/walk and to approve the use of Triangle Park as presented. Motion

carried. The third request was for the closing of 3rd Avenue North from Division to Hwy. 182 from 8 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. Pete Maynard formally withdrew this request. There was some discussion on the city hall bathroom upgrades. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Corbett to postpone/delay the bathroom project until a more comprehensive list can be compiled which would include the bathroom upgrades and any other upgrades needed for city hall. Motion carried. The next meeting for DPW is set for October 7, 2019.

Alderman Mader presented a request for a picnic license from the Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce for their September 28, 2019 fall festival. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve this request. Motion carried.

Under the Mayor's report, Mayor Bablick updated everyone on the status of Flambeau River Papers, LLC. There is a court filing and on September 19, 2019, around 1:15 p.m., everyone should know the new owners of the mill. Mayor Bablick also introduced the new City Administrator/Clerk Brentt Michalek. Previous Intern City Administrator Steve Kubacki will stay on during the budget process. The Mayor also informed the council that the Joint Review Board met on the 22nd of August and voted to proceed with the TID.

City Administrator/Clerk Michalek let the council know that he received two petitions by a citizen group. There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to open the floor for discussion. Steve Gustafson and Tod McCarthy were present from the citizen group to discuss any concerns with the council. Steve Gustafson handed out a proposed ballot language sheet that the Council could use if they wanted to put the items on the spring election. Seeing no further discussion from the floor, Alderman Mader made a motion, which was seconded by Alderman Wartgow, to close the floor. Motion carried. After the floor was closed, Alderman Wartgow, with a second by Alderman Mader, made a motion to allow the City Administrator/Clerk to draft two resolutions showing support for these two topics. Motion carried. City Administrator/Clerk Michalek informed the council of the updates that he has been working on which includes the employee police handbook; ordinances; LAW union negotiations, social media policy, employee review and he is working with MSA to apply for some grants that would include the Environmental Improvements Fund. Previous Interim City Administrator Steve Kubacki presented a timetable for the council so they would know what is going on with the budget.

City Attorney Schoenborn reported that he recently attended a conference where they talked in great length about a comprehensive social media policy.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that there is still a possibility of having an election in the next couple of months.

Police Chief Ernst presented the monthly police department report. He also thanked everyone for the sergeant recommendation. There will be a de-con drill on Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Flambeau Hospital.

Water & Street Superintendent Hilgart was not present per the Mayor's recommendation and therefore, an update was not given.

There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Thier to go into closed session 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. (Labor Negotiations 2020) and also 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.) Motion carried, 6-0. (Alderman Corbett was excused at 6:15 p.m.)

There was a motion to return to open session by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow. Motion carried, 6-0. No further motions were needed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk