

COMMON COUNCIL

10/14/2019

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, October 14, 2019. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order and the following members were present:

Mayor:	Michael Bablick
Aldermen:	Chris Hoffman -- Absent Richard Scharp --Absent Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett Anthony Thier Dina Bukachek Dan Greenwood
City Attorney:	Bryce Schoenborn

Also present: Jerry Ernst, Sam Pritzl, Pete Maynard, Scott Hilgart, David Dryer, Phil Bochler, Bonnie Dryer, Deb Hyde, Brentt Michalek, Stephanie Hammond, Larry Reas, Michael Pares, Terry Kaiser, Steve Gustafson, Tod McCarthy, Shannon Greenwood and Mike Boushon.

After roll call was taken, Mayor Bablick relinquished the meeting to President Mader and he left the room. Sam Pritzl from the Park Falls Area Community Development Corporation then addressed the council with the annual report for the PFACDC. After Sam was done, the Mayor entered the room again and President Mader relinquished the meeting back to Mayor Bablick.

The minutes of the 9/09/19 Council meeting were presented. The Mayor pointed out that the “But 4” clause be changed to “But For”. Moved by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes as presented with the one minor correction. Motion carried.

In communications, Mayor Bablick informed the council about the BART bus numbers. In addition, he spoke about the business cards that everyone will be receiving and how personal business should not be done on the new city emails that all the aldermen will be receiving. City Administrator/Clerk Michalek handed everyone an MSA monthly report. He also let the council know that the original health insurance rate increase came in at 47.5% and Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Smith and him were able to work with TriCor and Security Health to get the percentage down to 7.5%. Alderman Mader read a letter that was addressed to Mr. Daniel Leidl from the Price County Sheriff. (See attachment A in the minutes for this letter.) Alderman Thier informed everyone that he was stepping down as President of the Flambeau River Community Growing Center, LLC. Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Smith let everyone know that the House of Horrors will be taking place on October 25, 26 and 31st from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. More volunteers are needed to be characters.

In public comment, Terry Kaiser spoke on behalf of the Beautification Committee to thank everyone for the continued support. Next year, there will be brighter lights in the new trees downtown. The Beautification Committee is looking for different ways to mark who the baskets are in honor/memory of; in addition, the committee is looking at possibly planting some wildflowers/native grasses in the medians and also looking at making banners for school spirit throughout the City. Mike Pares let the council know that the City of Park Falls looks beautiful.

Under Old Business, there was discussion on the timber sale for the airport property. Alderman Thier made a motion and Alderman Mader seconded it to reconsider the timber sale bid. Motion carried. Alderman Wartgow made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to award the timber sale bid to the next highest qualifying bidder, which was R.M. Bay Logging for an amount of \$12,390. Motion carried, 6-0.

Under New Business, the Mayor recommended that trick or treat hours be 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Motion by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this. Motion carried. The Mayor recognized Tod McCarthy and Steve Gustafson for the next items which were Resolutions No. 19-005 and No. 19-006. Resolution No. 19-005 is as follows: Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to limit campaign spending and recognize only human beings as having constitutional rights. Motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this as written. Motion carried. Resolution No. 19-006 is as follows: Supporting the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for preparation of a Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plan. Motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this as written. Motion carried. The council then discussed the transfer of a liquor license pending sale of property located at 1127 4th Avenue South. Motion made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve this transfer. Motion carried, 6-0. The next item was to discuss transferring \$250,000 from the general fund balance to TIF 5 account to act as startup money for the TIF and all the money will be reimbursed back to the general fund once TIF 5 becomes sustainable. Motion by Alderman Corbett and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this transfer with the intent to have everything repaid to the general fund. Motion carried, 6-0. The last item under new business was the approval of a Developer's Agreement between the City of Park Falls and BP Ventures, LLC. Mayor Bablick recognized Mikes Pares, one of the owners from BP Ventures, LLC to answer any questions that the council may have regarding his remodeling of the property located at 1127 4th Avenue South (The Lanes). In addition, Mayor Bablick passed out the agreement to all the council members and said that it was looked over by the attorney and passed the 'But For' test. Motion made by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the Developer's Agreement as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

For Personnel, City Administrator/Clerk Michalek informed the council that the first meeting with LAW, regarding the police department, will be taking place on October 21, 2019.

Alderman Bukachek presented the Finance Committee report. There was a motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the finance minutes of September 9, 2019. Motion carried. Because there was not a quorum for the finance meeting, the bills were discussed, and it was then moved by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$411,639.45. Motion carried, 6-0. There was a discussion on approval of additional costs for repairs to the lift station. Motion by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve an amount of \$58,576.77. Motion carried, 6-0. Finally, there was discussion in regard to changing the city mileage rate reimbursement, which is currently \$.40/mile, to the IRS standard rate, which is currently \$.58/mile. Motion by Alderman Corbett and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this change. Motion carried, 6-0.

Alderman Thier presented the minutes from the October 7, 2019 minutes. Motion by Alderman Thier and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve these minutes. Motion carried. There was a request by the Park Falls Area Chamber of Commerce to use the Evergreen Road Run route for the Turkey Trot on November 28, 2019. Motion by Alderman Corbett and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this request. Motion carried. There was some discussion and a recommendation to approve Hastings Construction, LLC to allow a curb cut and the loss of 3 downtown parking spaces at 239 2nd Avenue North. Motion to accept this recommendation by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier. Motion carried. The last item was to approve spending \$15,000 for an LRIP grant project to pave 7th Street North from 1st Ave. to 2nd Ave. \$6,288 will be reimbursed by the LRIP grant. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow. Motion carried, 6-0. The next meeting will take place on November 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Under the Mayor's report, Mayor Bablick recommended a motion to accept the resignation of James Koller as Lieutenant and to appoint Rupert Smith as Lieutenant until June, 2020. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to accept this motion. Motion carried. The mayor recommended the appointment of the following individuals to the Park Falls Fire and Rescue Department: Austin Mindock, Melanie Fullman and Dylan Borne. Motion made by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve these appointments. Motion carried. Mayor Bablick then updated everyone on the status of Flambeau River Papers, LLC. Everything is now up for sale. The sale date is now on November 1, 2019 with the hearing taking place on November 4, 2019 at 11 a.m.

City Administrator/Clerk Michalek informed the council that he has been in contact with General Code for our city code of ordinances and everything is in the process of being converted. He also let the council know that he signed an agreement with TriCor, Inc. to provide broker/agent services for health insurance. In addition, with no cost being incurred by the City, TriCor will be reviewing and working on the city employee manual. There will be a budget meeting taking place on October 16, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. City Administrator/Clerk Michalek also informed the council that he is working with the county on a county-wide housing study. The total cost is projected to be around \$20,000. This study will show the demands for the needs of housing and then the city can start to pursue grants/developers to help with this need.

City Attorney Schoenborn had nothing to report.

Library Director Hyde informed everyone that there will be a Halloween party with a co-sponsorship from NCCU taking place at the library on October 26, 2019 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Saturday hours will be changing slightly; they will now be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. On November 2, Arlan Colby will be talking about his book that includes the railroad history at 10 a.m. Library Director Hyde thanked the fire department for the presentation they did at the library.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that the primary election for Sean Duffy's position will be February 18, 2020 and the general election will be May 12, 2020. We will also be having an election in April, possibly August and November of next year. Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith updated the council on the completion of the grants from the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Funds. The total amount from all four grants equaled \$121,406.35. Lastly, she updated everyone that the audit report was 100% complete for the 2018 year.

Police Chief Ernst presented the monthly police department report. Members of the Police and Fire Departments will be patrolling the streets during Halloween handing out glow sticks and candy.

Water & Street Superintendent Hilgart had nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk