

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 05/22/2023

The Common Council of the City of Park Falls met in regular session at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 22, 2023. Mayor Tara Tervort called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and the following members were present:

Mayor: Tara Tervort

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

City Attorney: Bryce Schoenborn-Excused

City Administrator: Brentt Michalek

Also present: Debra Perkins, Bill Hoffman, Shannon Greenwood, Deb Hyde, Marv Nevelier and David Leitl.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Bukachek to approve the minutes for the Common Council meeting on April 10, Annual Organizational Meeting on April 18, and Committee of the Whole meeting on May 8, 2023. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Administrator Michalek commented that he had spoken earlier in the day with the salmon folks. Bill and Brentt are planning to visit one of the salmon farms out east in June. A representative from the state WEDC is to go with them. Alderman Wartgow thinks there may already be easements in place by the wood yard. Brentt will be checking into this.

Alderman Mader said that the dugouts are completed except for a couple things, ie. putting in bleachers.

Alderman Bukachek asked what is being done about folks living at 555 Saunders Ave. There have been citations and fines. Will probably approach this in closed session in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Weidman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mader to recognize Mark Palecek with a letter in addition to the plaque given to him. Motion carried.

A new Ordinance is being introduced as City Gift and Donation Ordinance. Mayor Tervort had indicated the need for this, so a new ordinance was drafted as Section 3-1-16 and outlined by City Administrator Michalek. This will be brought back to Council in June and the City Administrator encourages contacting him with any questions before the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –Alderman Bukachek made a motion and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$233,642.08. Motion carried, 7-0.

Personnel – Mark Koller is our new part-time summer crew DPW worker. The summer help criteria of being a student has been waived. A motion was made by Alderman Wartgow, seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the two new Lifeguards, Nathalie Schmidt & Maren Folstad. Motion carried 7-0

Board of Public Works –

Item 4 was moved to the top to accommodate the presence of David Leitl. David explained the purpose of the Veterans Suicide Walk, a 3-mile walk aimed to provide awareness of veteran suicide. Mr. Leitl gave details of the day's plan on June 24 starting at 9 AM and the route to be blocked off. He hopes to make this an annual event. A motion was made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the proposed route request. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Alderman Bukachek and seconded by Alderman Weidman to approve the Chicken Coop request by Stephanie Tesnow at 841 Atwood Avenue. Letters were sent to nearby neighbors, no replies were returned. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the “Picnic” license request from the Northwoods Young Professionals Group. This request is for the July 4th Celebration. Northwoods Young Professionals will use the Firemans Stand for their location, which was approved by the Fire Department. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the “Picnic License” request from Park Falls Chamber of Commerce for August 4-6, 2023 during FlambeauRama, location is 310 5th Street N. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve the CMAR report. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to give office furnishings to Chamber of Commerce and CEP office if they desire to take them. Motion carried.

Public Services – Nothing to report.

CITY OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Mayor Tervort– She has been mayor for a month now, everything is going well and thanked everyone for helping. Very impressed with the group. She indicated that she will be joining the Hospital Board. Her and Brentt will be attending the Local Government Day in Madison tomorrow.

City Administrator Michalek-TID 6 is proceeding. There is a Joint Review Board meeting Wed. 5/24. Planning Commission meeting Thursday 5/25, then to Council on June 12. Baker Tilly has an additional contract coming. Water rate increase is now a lot lower than originally expected. PFos is not present in Park Falls Water Utilities. Security cameras for the library and Police Department locations are being investigated. The cost is being looked into for Police Dept, City Hall and a couple other locations around the city. More information will be forthcoming.

Attorney report – Nothing to report.

Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer Perkins – 77 disconnect notices mailed out 5/12, anticipate 23 turnoffs on Wed.

Library Director Hyde – Library will not be open on the holiday. Activities in June are planned to be at Tuscobia Park. There is a read 100 books by December to get your name in a drawing. Part time position will be open for hiring, hope to have someone on board by June 26. Non-fiction books are moved, working on Fiction section in anticipation of the upcoming City Hall move.

DPW Director Hoffman – At the closed landfill on Maple Ridge, there is interest in building a clay pigeon shooting range. Big question is where to put it, cost, insurance, liability. All this will be looked into. A Motion was made by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to pursue this interest. All in favor. City crew has completed chainsaw training. The cemetery has been seeded. Need to see a rain in order to continue treatment. Hoping to get to this after Memorial Weekend.

Chief of Police–Clean up lists are being looked at. They are monitoring the odors around town. There was a handout passed to each with pictures and a written account of the investigation on May 17, 2023. There does not appear to be a violation but exposure of the sludge has caused the extra smell floating around town. They need to get rid of the sludge and looking into options for that. The wood chips, lumber and logs at the steam plant are a citable offense and has been brought to the mill’s attention. An agent will be working with the mill to get it taken care of. Alderman Wartgow questioned how many legitimate complains there are. It should be noted that in order to do much of anything, the filed complaints need to be done. We don’t want the City to have a bad reputation of having an obnoxious smell. The City can not solicit complaints but individuals can. Alderman Bukachek asked if water quality is more pursuable than air quality. Alderman Corbett asked if there is someone at the DNR we can pursue this with. Local DNR agent is Arthur Ryzak. City Administrator Michalek suggested that we can pursue this with closed-in session at the next meeting to figure out what the next legal action would be.

Fire Chief Reas – Brentt gave an update that Chief Larry is recovering well.

A question was raised about the donated stage being moved. It will be done next week or so.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM by Mayor Tervort

Debra L Perkins
Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer