

COMMON COUNCIL
12/14/2020

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, December 14, 2020. Mayor Michael Bablick called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the following members were present:

Mayor:	Michael Bablick
Aldermen:	Chris Hoffman David Dryer Michael Mader Dennis Wartgow James Corbett Anthony Thier Dina Bukachek Dan Greenwood
City Attorney:	Bryce Schoenborn
City Administrator:	Brentt Michalek

Also present: Michelle Smith, Jerry Ernst, Deb Hyde, Larry Reas, Bob Zoubek, Jeff Euclide, Interim CAO of Marshfield Medical Center, Mike Schaars of Marshfield Medical Center, Rebecca Lenz of Marshfield Medical Center, and on phone 3 unidentified callers and Ryan Nitzke.

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

The minutes of the 11/30/2020 Council meeting was presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

In communications, the Mayor stated that he received a thank you card from the Chamber of Commerce for the City's help with Santa in the Park.

There was no public comment.

Under new business, the Mayor introduced Jeff Euclide, the Interim CAO of Marshfield Medical Center. Marshfield Medical Center recently took over Flambeau Hospital. Mr. Euclide introduced Dr. Michael Schaars to discuss the current ambulance services. Previously, there were three ambulances between 11 communities; two were regularly used and the 3rd was a backup. The 3rd is now being used to transfer patients from the Park Falls facility to Minocqua and vice-versa. In the last six months, there have been 220 transfers from the Park Falls facility to other areas. 79 have been from the Great Divide; 38 from Spirit (both on the ground and helicopter—it was mentioned that this option would probably not be around much longer). Great Divide is no longer going to be operating effective January 1, 2021. In 2023, Marshfield Medical Center will be looking to purchase a new ambulance. At 5:52 p.m., this discussion ended.

Under Finance, Alderman Hoffman made a motion and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to approve the bills of \$200,660.21. Motion carried, 8-0. There was consideration of a TIF Development agreement for \$25,000 for properties located at 149 5th Avenue South, 175 5th Avenue South and 464 1st Street South. These properties are currently owned by New Bedford, LLC. Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Wartgow to approve this agreement. Motion carried, 8-0. Resolution 20-018, Authorization to submit application to Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for Community Development Investment Grant was presented to the council. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve

this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. There was discussion regarding the loan (for Park Falls Industrial Management) that is currently due at Forward Bank. (Approved back in May 2020). Motion by Alderman Greenwood and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to extend the loan for an additional six months at 2.45% with the accrued interest of \$25,277.77 to be paid as part of the condition of the extension. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Board of Public Works, there was a contract presented from National Construction Rentals for the security fence that is currently around the downtown area development. The quote is for \$5,242.20 for an additional 6 months, which would bring the date into August, 2021. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Thier to approve this extension. Motion carried, 8-0.

Under Public Services, there was a proposal for BakerTilly to do a water and sewer study in the amount of \$9,000 for water and \$7,500 for sewer. Motion by Alderman Corbett and seconded by Alderman Mader to approve this study. Motion carried.

Under Personnel, Resolution 20-019: Adopting Article IX of the Employee Handbook Policy was presented. Motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Corbett to approve this resolution. Motion carried, 8-0. Ordinance 20-005: Amending Section 5-2-1(e) (5): Fire Department Organization was presented. Motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Corbett to approve this ordinance. Motion carried. City Administrator/Clerk handed out the timeline for the replacement hiring of the DPW Director. It was mentioned that Wisconsin Rural Water would be a good resource to post an employment ad.

Under the Mayor's report, he announced that he is going to run again for the April 2021 election.

City Administrator and Clerk Michalek informed the council that on December 23rd, the industrial park land signing should be taking place. Hopefully by the end of the year, the BART land transfer will also be taking place. The Forward Bank land transfer has taken place, and all is complete with those parcels. The police union has voted to reopen the contract and renegotiate. Lastly, John Tercero informed Brentt that he received the papers today, December 14, and would be sending them back to the City shortly for the purchase of his property.

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

Treasurer and Deputy Clerk Smith informed the council that there will be an election on April 6, 2021 and papers can still be taken out. If aldermen are not interested in running, they need to fill out a noncandidacy sheet. Lastly, she handed out the schedule for walk in tax payments when the city hall south entrance will be open.

Library Director Hyde let everyone know that everything at the library is going well.

Street and Water Superintendent Hilgart was excused from the meeting.

Police Chief Ernst informed the council that there was some damage done to the new squad car that was being stored in the ambulance garage. After a complete report, it appears that there was a faulty life. The property of 577 2nd Ave. N is currently in violation of the city ordinance for junked and inoperable vehicles.

Fire Chief Reas stated that the fire truck is going to be approximately between \$500,000-\$528,000.

At 7:12, there was a short break.

There was a motion by Alderman Wartgow and seconded by Alderman Mader to convene into closed session at 7:21 p.m., 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 the purchase of the following property: Hammerstrom Lot and property within the City limits, for consideration of eminent domain for the property that Krist Oil Co., Inc. owns.) and 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. (Discussion of DNR Asbestos/Demolition Compliance) 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. (Evaluation of organization structure and potential litigation, and per Section 19.85 (1) (e), whenever bargaining or negotiation reasons require a closed session, the council may be voting on contract decisions). Motion carried, 8-0. City staff members Michalek, Ernst and Smith stayed for closed session.

There was a motion by Alderman Mader and seconded by Alderman Greenwood to reconvene into open session at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried, 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Michelle M. Smith
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk