

Common Council Meeting – December 6th 2011

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Prairie du Chien was held on Tuesday December 6th 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Dave Hemmer called the meeting to order. **Call to order/Roll Call** – Pintz and Ames absent **Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda** – ACTION: To certify and approve MOTION: Munson SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 10-0 **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Boy Scout Troop 320

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed 2012 Budget – Mayor Hemmer opened the public hearing at 7:03 PM. The City Administrator presented the final proposed 2012 budget, which includes a 1 percent increase in the mill levy. Tim Baxter and Rick Boylen both appeared on behalf of the St. Feriole Island Ballpark. They were requesting \$6,000 in funds next year from the city to help pay for utilities. The City Administrator made a proposal to meet the request, which was debated by the Council.

B. ACTION on aforesaid agenda item

ACTION: To reduce the payment on the ballpark lights agreement by the St. Feriole Ballpark operators in 2011 from \$8,000 to \$4,000 MOTION: Hein SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 10-0 ACTION: To approve the 2012 General Fund, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water budgets MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Hein VOTE: 10-0

C. PRESENTATION – Relocation of the Thompson Dredge to Prairie du Chien

Dale Klemme addressed the Council on the initiative underway to relocate the dredge to St. Feriole Island. He discussed the 2004 effort by the city to have the dredge relocated in Prairie du Chien, and the most recent efforts. Concerns were raised about the future costs to the city, and the idea of sending the issue to the Public Works Committee.

D. ACTION on aforesaid agenda item

ACTION: To approve Resolution 2011-38 (TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS TO RELOCATE THE THOMPSON DREDGE TO PRAIRIE DU CHIEN) and waive the reading MOTION: Hein SECOND: Munson VOTE: 5-5 (Thein, Riebe, Solomon, Fleshner and Boylen opposed). The tie vote was broken by Hemmer, who voted aye. Motion passed.

Without objection, the agenda was moved:

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Contract between City and Community Development Alternatives (CDA) regarding relocation of homes on Marquette Road

Dale Klemme presented a proposal to relocate six of the homes to city-owned lots along and near Beaumont Road. Discussion was held on how the relocations be funded, and who would manage the relocations. ACTION: To send to the Public Works Committee for further discussion MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Hein VOTE: 10-0

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. COUNCIL MINUTES – November 15th 2011, B. FINANCE COMMITTEE – November 15th 2011, C. FINANCE COMMITTEE – November 29th 2011, D. POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION – September 9th 2011, E. PARK BOARD – October 19th 2011, F. HOFFMAN HALL BUILDING COMMITTEE – November 8th 2011, G. OPERATORS LICENSES, H. ELECTION WORKERS FOR 2012 The City Administrator asked that item H be removed. ACTION: To approve the consent agenda minus item H MOTION: Hein SECOND: Titlbach VOTE: 10-0

III. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

The City Administrator asked that Nancy Trautsch be added to the list of election workers ACTION: To approve item H with the addition of Nancy Trautsch MOTION: Munson SECOND: Hein VOTE: 10-0

IV. CITY ADMININSTRATOR'S REPORT

The City Administrator discussed the delays in the Safe Routes to School program. No formal action was taken.

V. CITIZENS' COMMENTS, OBSERVATIONS, PETITIONS, AND PUBLIC INPUT – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Including items for future agenda consideration or Committee assignment)

A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Approval of contract between the City and HSR

This contact would initiate the first phase of the Hoffman Hall renovation. Bill Adamany (Hoffman Hall Building Committee) discussed the contract's specifics ACTION: TO approve the contract between the City and HSR MOTION: Titlbach SECOND: Kozelka VOTE: 8-2 (Solomon and Boylen opposed)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

H. PARK BOARD - Request for Carp Fest at various city locations during the month of December

Tom Nelson was present to discuss this year's event ACTION: To approve Carp Fest for 2011 MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Hein VOTE: 10-0

I. PARK BOARD - Approval of St. Feriole Island Gardens to request donations for weddings

Tom Nelson presented the proposal to the Council ACTION: To approve the request MOTION: Hein SECOND: Kozelka VOTE: 9-1 (Fleshner opposed)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

A. FINANCE – Claims

ACTION: To approve MOTION: Titlbach SECOND: Kozelka VOTE: 10-0

B. FINANCE – Resolution 2011-36 (TO ESTABLISH FUND BALANCE POLICIES AS REQUIRED BY GASB 54)

This resolution is needed to keep out audits compliant with the new GASB regulations. ACTION: To approve Resolution 2011-36 MOTION:

C. FINANCE – Amended 2011 Budget

ACTION: To approve the 2011 amended budget, with \$4,000 in additional funds (from the St. Feriole Island Ballpark payment) to be added to the Police Department overtime budget MOTION: Hein SECOND: Munson VOTE: 10-0

D. FINANCE – Resolution 2011-37 (WRITING OFF UNCOLLECTIBLE ACOUNTS RECEIVABLES)

ACTION: To approve Resolution 2011-37 MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Hein VOTE: 10-0

E. FINANCE - Creation of Special Room Tax Fund

The City Administrator discussed a memo on the proposed change in collecting and disbursing the room tax proceeds. ACTION: To approve the creation of a Special Room Tax Fund (Fund 207)
MOTION: Hein SECOND: Munson VOTE: 10-0

NOTE: Jones left the meeting at 9:04 PM

F. PARK BOARD – Request for Jaycees Flea Market (June 11-18, 2012) on St. Feriole Island-Tara Marx

ACTION: To approve the request MOTION: Munson SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 9-0

G. PARK BOARD – Request for Bluesfest (July 25, 2012) on St. Feriole Island- Todd Yeomans

ACTION: To approve the request, pending the payment of an outstanding \$107.88 bill MOTION: Munson SECOND: Kozelka VOTE: 9-0

ACTION: To recess for five minutes at 9:05 PM MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 9-0

After reconvening, the City Administrator notified the Council that Bluesfest had paid the outstanding invoice, which was part of the previous motion.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

B. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Request by Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR), in conjunction with UFP Ventures II, requests use of real estate parcels 0747-0002 and 0746-0002, owned by the City of Prairie du Chien, as a temporary site for loading railcars and staging materials
No discussion and no action on this item.

C. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Reducing the Size of the Common Council

At the August 16th Council meeting, Alderwoman Hein made a motion to reduce the size of the council, but that motion died for a lack of a second. Alderman Riebe, who was not present at that August meeting, has asked for the item to be placed back on the agenda for discussion and action. He said he felt the Council should consider a proposal to reduce the size of the Council, based, in part, on possible budget savings and the results of the April 2011 advisory referendum. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of reducing the Council size ACTION: To reduce the Council to six members, one per ward, and two at-large members, at the first election in which the state statutes would permit, either 2013 or 2014 MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Hein VOTE: 4-5 (Thein, Solomon, Boylen, Fleshner and Munson opposed)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (Including items for future agenda consideration or Committee assignment)

B. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Approval of grant from DNR for Washington Park

In October, the DNR Stewardship program approved an \$83,849 grant for the park. ACTION: To accept the DNR grant MOTION: Munson SECOND: Hein VOTE: 9-0

C. DISCUSSION – Items for future agenda consideration or Committee assignment

None

D. CLOSED SESSION (9:35 PM)

ACTION: To go into closed session under Wisconsin State Statute 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. RE:

Possible sale of city property and under Wisconsin State Statute 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. RE: Possible legal action involving employee discipline MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Munson VOTE: 9-0 NOTE: Dan Key was present at the beginning of the closed session

E. RECONVENE into open session (10:15 PM)

MOTION: Riebe SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 9-0

F. ACTION from closed session

ACTION: To accept the arbitrator's ruling on the employee grievance, and not file an appeal

MOTION: Hein SECOND: Fleshner VOTE: 8-1 (Boylen opposed)

IX. ADJOURN (10:18 PM)

MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Riebe VOTE: 9-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

*** Resolution 2011-36 (TO ESTABLISH FUND BALANCE POLICIES AS REQUIRED BY GASB 54)**

*** Resolution 2011-37 (WRITING OFF UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES)**

*** Resolution 2011-38 (TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS TO RELOCATE THE THOMPSON DREDGE TO PRAIRIE DU CHIEN)**