

Common Council Meeting (May 20th 2013)

A joint meeting of the Common Council of the City of Prairie du Chien and the Prairie du Chien Area School Board was held on Monday May 20th 2013 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room of City Hall. Mayor Dave Hemmer called the meeting to order.

NOTE: The School District Board did not have a quorum for the meeting.

1. Call to order/Roll Call

Ron Leys absent.

2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda

MOTION: Ames SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 11-0

3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Outdoor Classroom Concept

City and school officials have had discussions in the past on the outdoor classroom concept at the former Northern Engraving site and Goddens' Pit, and would like to see if there is an opportunity to expand. Superintendent Johnson reviewed the proposals, and said he would like the City and School District work together on the issue. Alderman Pintz suggested that both entities also look at LaRiviere Park for outdoor educational programming. No formal action taken.

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Shared facilities and grounds

There have been some disagreements over joint usage and usage of each other's facilities, so city and school staffs believe it is time to review the issues and attempt to find some solutions. Both the Superintendent and City Administrator reviewed the most recent disagreements. The City Administrator said he felt the issues will be resolved once the fields at Bluffview Elementary are completed. No formal action taken.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Economic Development

Superintendent Johnson wanted to discuss and explore options for the school district and the city to partner on economic development initiatives, including, but not limited to, a multi-use community performing arts/convention/recreational facility. School Board President Atkins and the Superintendent presented an overview of the concept which has been discussed. The proposed facility, which would include a performance arts component, as well as basketball courts and an indoor track, would cost around \$14 million, and the most likely location would be on school property adjacent to Fremont Street. The Superintendent and Board President stressed that they were not looking for the Council to support the project, but wanted to open dialogue on the City and School District possibly working together. No formal action taken.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – School Safety Issues

City staff wanted to discuss partnering with the school district on the following initiatives: A) Active shooter tabletop exercise, B) School liaison officer, C) Building safety analysis, and D) School crossing guard program. The City Administrator reviewed the proposal to have the School District and City work together on the active shooter tabletop exercise and building safety analysis. He also said City staff would like to discuss a cost-sharing of the school crossing guard program, as well as discussions on whether the current locations of the guards are the most efficient. Police Chief Abram reviewed the school liaison officer program, and said the City is in the process of applying for a federal COPS grant to fund the position. He said the School District would possibly be asked to partner financially in the position if the grant is awarded and accepted. No formal action taken.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Public Works and Infrastructure Issues

City staff wanted to discuss the following items: A) Parking at B.A. Kennedy School, B) Impact of the 22nd Street extension on the traffic patterns at Bluffview Elementary School, and C) Safety issues and multi-use path/sidewalk along Fremont Street to the west of the curb along the practice fields, stadium & solar panels. City staff discussed looking at different parking and traffic patterns around B.A. Kennedy, and different ways to approach snow emergencies. City staff is also looking for suggestions from the School District on how to alter the traffic and parking patterns around Bluffview Elementary when the 22nd Street corridor is built. Discussion on the Fremont Street area focused on a possible sidewalk or multi-use path from the intersection of Fremont and Wells Streets north. No formal action taken.

8. ADJOURNMENT (7:20 PM)

MOTION: Wagar SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 11-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer