

Common Council Meeting (January 21st 2014)

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Prairie du Chien was held on Tuesday January 21st 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Dave Hemmer called the meeting to order.

ITEMS TO BE ACTED UPON:

1. Call to order/Roll Call – Jean Titlbach and Kyle Kozelka absent
2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda – MOTION: Thein SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 10-0
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Ken Fleshner

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. COUNCIL MINUTES – January 7th 2014; B. FINANCE COMMITTEE – January 7th 2014; C. POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION – October 22nd 2013; D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – December 17th 2013; E. PLAN COMMISSION – November 18th 2013; F. REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – November 25th 2013; G. OPERATORS LICENSES (if any); I. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – 2013 Annual Report, 4th Quarter 2013, December 2013; J. POLICE CHIEF – 4th Quarter 2013 Report. ACTION: To approve the Consent Agenda MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Gilberts VOTE: 10-0

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA - None

7. CITIZENS' COMMENTS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. PRESENTATION

Will Cronin, the new UW-Extension Agent, introduced himself and the programs the UW Extension offers in Crawford County

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The City Administrator handed out a memo calling for the creation of a task force to review the City's response plan for a train derailment. No formal action was taken.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

A. FINANCE – Claims

ACTION: To approve the claims MOTION: Thein SECOND: Pintz VOTE: 10-0

B. FINANCE – Transfer of Boat Launch Fees for Washington Street Park Project

Staff was requesting Council approval to transfer \$20,987.50 from the Boat Launch Fees Fund to complete the financing for the Washington Street Park improvement project. A memo from City Planner Frable was included in the packet. Discussion was held on the proposal. Gilberts asked if launch passes would need to be purchased by those using kayaks and canoes, and staff confirmed that they would. The transfer would leave roughly \$65,000 in the boat launch fund, with an anticipated \$30-35,000 in revenue expected in 2014. The City Administrator said the fund will next be used to make upgrades to the Villa Louis boat landing in 2015 and 2016, and then possibly improvements to the Marina Boat Landing. He said once those projects are done, staff will be proposing a reduction in the fees. ACTION: To approve the transfer \$20,987.50 from the Boat Launch Fees Fund to complete the financing for the Washington Street Park improvement project. MOTION: Wagar SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 8-2 (Fleshner and Pintz opposed)

C. FINANCE – Resolution 2014-04 (AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$15,500 OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT NUMBER 6 (TID #6) FUNDS TOWARD WASHINGTON STREET PARK AMENITIES)

ACTION: To approve Resolution 2014-04 MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Pintz VOTE: 10-0

D. PUBLIC WORKS – REQUEST FOR BIDS (ROOF REPLACEMENT STORAGE GARAGE/GRIT BUILDING FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY)

ACTION: To approve bidding out the project MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Thein VOTE: 10-0

E. PUBLIC WORKS - REQUEST FOR BIDS (SANITARY SEWER CURED IN PLACE LINING)

ACTION: To approve bidding out the project MOTION: Thein SECOND: Gilberts VOTE: 10-0

F. PUBLIC WORKS – Proposal to change traffic direction and parking on a portion of South Wacouta Avenue

Under this proposal, South Wacouta Avenue from Iowa to Blackhawk would be changed to a one-way street, with the traffic direction being northerly. In addition, parking on South Wacouta between Wisconsin and Blackhawk would be converted to diagonal, to create additional parking spaces. Discussion was held on the proposal. ACTION: To send the following proposal to the February 4th Council meeting for a second reading: 1) to change the traffic flow on South Wacouta Avenue from Iowa to Blackhawk to a one-way street, with the traffic direction being northerly, and 2) to create parking on South Wacouta, on the west side, between Wisconsin and Blackhawk in a diagonal manner, and 3) to designate the alley east of City Hall, between Blackhawk and Wisconsin, as one-way, with the traffic direction being southerly MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Wagar VOTE: 10-0

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Ordinance 2014-01 (RECREATING CHAPTER 1.36 (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DOWNTOWN REVOLVING LOAN FUND) AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1.37 (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DOWNTOWN REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE))

This Ordinance would create a Citywide Revolving Loan Fund Committee, and merge the current Downtown Revolving Loan Fund into the new entity. ACTION: To approve Ordinance 2014-01 MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 10-0

B. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Policy and Rules for the Citywide Revolving Loan Fund

ACTION: To approve the policies and rules for the Citywide Revolving Loan Fund MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Fleshner VOTE: 10-0

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

A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - RESOLUTION 2014-01 (OPPOSING THE STORAGE OF RAILROAD CARS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT ON ST. FERIOLE ISLAND)

The Resolution is being put before the Council at the request of Alderman Leys. Discussion was held on the impact of the resolution. ACTION: To approve Resolution 2014-01 MOTION: Fleshner SECOND: Wagar VOTE: 8-2 (Pintz and Gilberts opposed)

B. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Water/Sewer Utility Service between the City of Prairie du Chien and the town of Bridgeport

A memo from the City Administrator outlining a possible course of action regarding the recent issue between the Town and City regarding the water service to the new hospital site, as well as a possible option for addressing the expiration of the utility agreements between the City and the Town in 2017, is included in the packet. The Public Service Commission has issued a ruling that the City install two meter buildings, at an estimated cost of \$142,000, at both ends of the water line feeding the new hospital site. The City is appealing the ruling. Staff said the cost would either be assessed to the Hospital or passed on to the City residents, resulting in a likely rate increase request. The City Administrator is proposing the City extend an offer to merge the water and sewer utilities under one utility, which would eliminate the need for the meter buildings. He said the current water and sewer rates would be frozen under the proposal until the next round of rate increases are considered. Discussion was held on the proposal. ACTION: That the City of Prairie du Chien, and its respective Water and Sewer Utilities, extend an invitation to the Town of Bridgeport, and its respective Water and Sewer utilities, to negotiate, in the best interests of the residents served by both entities, on the basis of the City assuming ownership, maintenance and future operations of the water and sewer service in the Town of Bridgeport. Furthermore, the City would respectfully request the negotiations be held between the Bridgeport Town Chairman or his designee, the Mayor of Prairie du Chien or his designee, the Prairie du Chien City Administrator, the Public Works Directors for the City of Prairie du

Chien, the legal counsel for both entities, and the Public Service Commission to reach said agreement
MOTION: Wagar SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 10-0

C. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Haydn Street crossing

On January 13th, the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads issued his final ruling, calling for the crossing to be closed on March 1st. Discussion was held on whether the City should appeal the ruling to the Circuit Court. City Attorney Peterson said the cost to appeal could be in the range of \$15-25,000. The City Administrator said he was hesitant to use Contingency Funds at this time for the appeal, since it would use 25 percent of that fund, and would instead look for cuts in other parts of the City budget. Keith Coburn (Co-Owner, Frazier’s Old Faithful Inn) addressed the Council and said he was planning to move forward with an appeal and would like the City to join with him. Leys asked City Administrator Kramer what the City had given up when it rejected the initial offer from BNSF Railroad to close the crossing in late 2012. Kramer said the City had been offered slightly more than \$32,000 to agree to the crossing being closed, but the Council had rejected that offer. ACTION: To proceed with an appeal of the Haydn Street crossing ruling to the Circuit Court MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Boylen VOTE: 3-7 (Thein, Leys, Myers, Solomon, Fleshner, Gilberts and Wagar opposed)

Kramer said the Council could delay any final decision until February 4th in order for him to put together a funding package for the appeal, since this would still allow the City to appeal within the 30-day window of filing an appeal. ACTION: To direct the City Administrator to develop a funding plan, with a \$25,000 budget, in order to consider proceeding with an appeal of the Haydn Street crossing ruling to the Circuit Court at the February 4th Council meeting MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Boylen VOTE: 4-6 (Leys, Myers, Solomon, Fleshner, Gilberts and Wagar opposed)

D. DISCUSSION - Items for future agenda consideration or Committee assignment - None

Prior to adjournment, Police Lieutenant Sprosty and City Administrator Kramer thanked for the Council for their recent approval of tactical unit equipment, which was recently utilized in a standoff in the town of Bridgeport.

12. ADJOURN (8:50 PM)

MOTION: Leys SECOND: Wagar VOTE: 11-0

Dave Hemmer, Mayor

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer

ORDINANCES APPROVED

* Ordinance 2014-01 (RECREATING CHAPTER 1.36 (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DOWNTOWN REVOLVING LOAN FUND) AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1.37 (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DOWNTOWN REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE)

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED

* Resolution 2014-01 (OPPOSING THE STORAGE OF RAILROAD CARS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT ON ST. FERIOLE ISLAND)

* Resolution 2014-04 (AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$15,500 OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT NUMBER 6 (TID #6) FUNDS TOWARD WASHINGTON STREET PARK AMENITIES)