

Minutes of the Common Council (Special) October 7th 2014

A special meeting of the City of Prairie du Chien Common Council was held on Tuesday October 7th 2014 at 6:00 PM in City Hall. Mayor Dave Hemmer called the meeting to order.

NOTE: This meeting is being held jointly with the Prairie du Chien Area Board of Education.

1. Call to order/Roll Call – ABSENT: Mark Thein, Sharon Boylen, Karen Solomon and Mike Jones were absent. The Council currently has one vacancy. A quorum of the Council did not exist.

2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda – MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Kozelka VOTE: 7-0

3. DISCUSSION – Pedestrian Safety Concerns

A community group would like to start a discussion on a broader scope of community safety, which would include, but not limited to, pedestrian/bike crossings along Marquette Road. The intent is to open a dialogue across the whole community of how we can be more walk and bike friendly. Mayor Hemmer referenced two emails from Kathleen Hein and Jane Schaaf (Healthy Roots of Crawford County) supporting the dialogue and initiative. Discussion was held on the new and future pedestrian improvements on Marquette Road, as well as a possible pedestrian overpass at Wells and Marquette. Hemmer suggested that a Councilmember volunteer to attend the Health Roots meetings. School Board President Christine Panka said she was attending those meetings at the current time. No formal action taken.

4. UPDATE – School District Referendum

Hemmer asked school district officials to update the Council on the possible building expansion and upgrade referendum. Panka said the School District recently completed an Energy Efficiency Audit, and will be getting feedback from the staff in November on building needs, as they continue the process of working on the specifics of a possible referendum. She said there is no timetable at this time, but there will definitely not be a referendum on the November ballot. No formal action taken.

NOTE: Solomon arrived at 6:31 PM.

5. DISCUSSION – Miscellaneous Topics

The following items were discussed, with no formal action will take place.

- * Economic Development Partnerships between the City and School District – District Superintendent Drew Johnson said he wanted to convey that the School District is looking to partner with other governmental agencies on economic development projects. Discussion was held on the loss of young people, who graduate, leave the community and do not return, and what can be done to reverse the trend. Johnson said the district is expecting an increase in enrollment, and is trying to address the virtual school concept.

- * School Liaison-Community Police Officer – Police Chief Abram said the City did not receive a grant in the latest round of awards, but will continue to pursue the initiative in the future.

- * Directional signage for the school district facilities – City Administrator Kramer suggested that the District and City review the signage across the City in the spring of 2015, as to whether it adequately directs visitors to the school facilities.

- * Miscellaneous topics – Leys commended the District for their garden projects.

6. ADJOURN (6:40 PM)

MOTION: Hayes-Hall SECOND: Titlbach VOTE: 8-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer