

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL – JANUARY 5TH 2016

A regular meeting of the City of Prairie du Chien Common Council was held on Tuesday January 5th 2016 at 7:00 PM in City Hall. Mayor Dave Hemmer called the meeting to order.

ITEMS TO BE ACTED UPON:

1. Call to order/Roll Call – All present with one vacancy. **2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda** – MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Hayes-Hall VOTE: 7-0 **3. Pledge of Allegiance** - Led by Edward Hayes-Hall

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. PUBLIC HEARING - 4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Request from Commonwealth Development Corporation/River to Valley Initiatives, Inc. to rezone Lots 5 & 10, Block 146; Lots 5 & 10, Block 147; entire Blocks 150 & 151; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & N. 5' of Lot 5, Block 170; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 & 10, Block 171; and vac. portions of Dunn, Taylor & Prairie Streets & all vac. alleys adj., exc. that part used for Hwy purposes as desc. in WD #307811; Union Plat (parcel #271-2093-0000) from R-1 “Low Density Residential” to R-3 “High Density Residential” Zoning District – This is the former Wyalusing Academy site. Hemmer opened the public hearing at 7:04 PM. Kevin McDonnell (Commonwealth Development Corporation, Fond du Lac) explained the proposed project, projected residents and likely tenants. He said the company is looking to finish the renovation of the building by the fall of 2017. Councilmembers had questions on the property taxes, the specifics of the tax credits being used and the demand for the apartments. Also addressing the Council were Jan Koecke (628 South Beaumont) – who requested the Council require the developer subdivide the property and not rezone the land not developed and agree to not allow Section 8 housing, Ted Finn (724 South Beaumont) – who had concerns about impact of the project on the archaeological features of the site, and Sarah Rybarczyk (608 Pedretti Way) – who owned property in the immediate vicinity and had questions about the potential property taxes. City Administrator Kramer said he and Mayor Hemmer had held a conference call with Lori Rich (City Administrator, Ripon), where Commonwealth had two projects, and she had very positive comments about the company and their work. Hemmer closed the public hearing at 7:51 PM.

B. ACTION on aforesaid agenda item – Ordinance 2016-02 (AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN) – ACTION: To approve Ordinance 2016-02 MOTION: Leys SECOND: Titlbach VOTE: 6-1 (Hayes-Hall opposed)

5. CONSENT AGENDA - A. COUNCIL – December 15th 2015; B. FINANCE COMMITTEE – December 15th 2015; C. AIRPORT COMMISSION - March 4th 2014 (Joint meeting with Public Works Committee) and July 21st 2015 (No quorum); D. PARK BOARD - August 19th 2015; E. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – November 2015; F. OPERATORS LICENSES (if any); ACTION: To approve MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Hayes-Hall VOTE: 7-0

6. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA - None

7. CITIZENS' COMMENTS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS - None

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Kramer said he had researched the issue of what constitutes a quorum and could Councilmembers attend a meeting via telephone. He said six members constitute a quorum under State law, and that absentee attendance is permitted if the City were to adopt an ordinance. He recommended the Council consider attendance via Skype or some other similar media. Hayes-Hall said he would like to see the issue sent to the Personnel Committee.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

A. FINANCE – Claims – ACTION: To approve MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 7-0

B. PUBLIC WORKS – Naming of Rotary Park – ACTION: To direct the City Attorney and City Administrator to draft a Resolution renaming the pocket park located at the southeast corner of Blackhawk Avenue and Marquette Road, and to draft a memorandum of understanding with the Prairie du Chien Rotary Club for future usage and maintenance of said park, and present both documents to the Common Council for consideration at a future meeting MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 7-0

C. PUBLIC WORKS – Request to activate siren by Fire Station daily - Chief Remz is requesting permission to activate and test the siren at the Fire Station on a daily basis. The Committee recommended the activation occur at noon each day. Steve Rickleff spoke on behalf of the Fire Department and said the daily siren had been discontinued in 1997. Titlbach said she had been contacted by constituents who worked third shift requesting a different time to activate the siren ACTION: To approve the activation of the Fire Station to occur at noon each day MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Leys VOTE: 6-1 (Titlbach opposed)

10. OLD BUSINESS - None

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

A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Proposed Agreement to Light Cliffwood Drive Intersections - The Town of Prairie du Chien is proposing that they would place lights at the intersection of Cliffwood Drive at County Highway K if the City would agree to do the same at the intersection of Cliffwood Drive and State Highway 35. Town Chairman Larry Kapinus addressed the Council on the proposal. ACTION: To approve the installation of the light, using underground service and LED lights MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Hayes-Hall VOTE: 7-0

B. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Authorization to File a Formal Complaint with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Prairie du Chien Marina) - Staff is seeking authorization to file the complaint following two recent inspections of the marina, done with permission of the owners, which uncovered a number of building and electrical deficiencies. City Attorney Czajkowski-Higgins said the recent inspections raised some “life threatening” deficiencies. Denny Regal asked the Council for a copy of the list of possible violations. Joshua Regal told the Council the Regals would be in a better position to possibly finance any improvements if they had a long term lease with the City. ACTION: To authorize staff to file a formal complaint with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services against the Prairie du Chien Marina MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Titlbach VOTE: 7-0

C. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Council Vacancy (Third District) - Alderman Kyle Kozelka resigned the seat, which will be on the April 2016 ballot, effective December 31st 2015. The Council, at its last meeting, approved a proposal to accept applications from eligible residents to fill the vacancy through the election. One application – Todd Crotty – was received. Several Councilmembers questioned Crotty's ability to serve on the Council and continue to be a reporter at WPRE Radio. ACTION: To appoint Todd Crotty to the vacancy in the Third District MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Titlbach VOTE: 6-1 (Leys opposed). Following the vote, Mayor Hemmer appointed Todd Myers as chairman of the Public Works Committee.

D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Ordinance 2016-01 (REPEALING AND RE-CREATING CHAPTER 1.47 (CITY BOUNDARIES AND ANNEXATIONS) AND CHAPTER 8.01 (OFFICIAL MAP)) – ACTION: To approve Ordinance 2016-01 MOTION: Leys SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 7-0

E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Marquette Road Phase 2 - Engineering Contract Amendment No. 1 (Vierbicher) - This contract amendment covers additional engineering, design and electrical work to be done for the Marquette Road Project Phase 2, currently scheduled for 2018. ACTION: To approve the amendment MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Myers VOTE: 8-0

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

12. ADJOURN (8:58 PM) – MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Hayes-Hall VOTE: 8-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer

ORDINANCES APPROVED

* **Ordinance 2016-01 (REPEALING AND RE-CREATING CHAPTER 1.47 (CITY BOUNDARIES AND ANNEXATIONS) AND CHAPTER 8.01 (OFFICIAL MAP))**

* **Ordinance 2016-02 (AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, CRAWFORD COUNTY, WISCONSIN)**