

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following present by GoToMeeting or by phone: Ald. Mudler, Wendt, Ruetten, Bartz, Holthaus, Wagner, Schmid and Wetzel. Absent: Kilps. Staff also present: Police Chief Robert Kaminski; Fire Chief Kraig Biefeld; City Attorney Rose Simon-Silva, City Engineer Jaynellen Holloway, Utilities Superintendent Peter Hartz, Assistant Street Superintendent Jay Haberkorn, Zoning Administrator Jacob Maas and Clerk/Treasurer Elissa Friedl.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Mayor McFarland inquired if there were additions or corrections to minutes of the Common Council meeting held Tuesday, May 5, 2020. There being none, minutes were approved as presented.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Clerk/Treasurer Friedl stated that no comments were received by mail or email.

Melissa Lampe, Director of the Watertown Main Street Program, 519 E. Main Street was present to speak on behalf of the Main Street Program as well as the Chamber of Commerce. Bonnie Hertel, of the Chamber of Commerce was also present on the phone. Lampe requested that the Common Council support resolution #9022 on tonight's agenda. She said this will provide much needed relief to local businesses and will be a meaningful gesture of support from the City to the small business community.

PUBLIC HEARING

Rezone from GI, General Industrial, to MR-10 Multi-Family Residential-10. Lots 10 and 11, in Plat of Air Park, City of Watertown, Jefferson County, Wisconsin (231 Air Park Drive, PIN: 291-0815-1612-005; 233 Air Park Drive, PIN: 291-0815-1612-006) Audobon Park Outlots, LLC (Steve & Charlie Boysa).

Mayor McFarland declared the public hearing open at 7:04 p.m. Charlie Boysa of Basco Development was present to speak regarding the requested rezoning. Boysa indicated the property was purchased in 2000 with the intent to preserve his family's investment in the neighboring Audobon Park apartments. He reported this rezoning has the support of the Loeb family, who have recently amended the restricted covenants for this area. Boysa also said the City's Comprehensive Plan was updated last year and would allow multi-family development in this area. He indicated the intent is to build multi-family housing similar to his development near N. Fourth and Juneau Streets. Boysa said these are uncertain times but he still wants to invest in Watertown. If approved, Boysa stated that he plans to begin construction near the end of summer. Steve Boysa was also present to speak. He said his family simply likes to build and employ people and that this project will add to the City's tax base.

Clerk/Treasurer Elissa Friedl read into the record a letter of support for this rezoning from Bruce J. Loeb. In summary, the letter noted that Steve and Charlie Boysa have an excellent record of developing multi-family housing in Watertown and Loeb stated this will be an asset to the community, improve housing stock and positively impact the tax base. The public hearing was closed at 7:11 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following reports were received and filed: Finance Committee 05/11/20; Plan Commission 05/11/20; Public Works Commission 05/12/20. Ald. Wendt questioned whether the City can afford to do all we are doing right now with an

anticipated deficit. Mayor McFarland replied that the deficit due to revenue losses from COVID 19 are in the general fund and most of the capital purchases are either from separate utility budgets or from the capital projects fund which cannot be comingled with the general fund. She noted that she and the staff are keeping a pulse on the revenue losses and potential deficit on a weekly basis. There were no further comments or corrections to these reports. (Complete minutes are open for public inspection in the City Clerk/Treasurer's office.)

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor McFarland presented the appointment of Tim Raether, 1105 N. Fourth Street, to the Transit Commission to fill a partial term. Ald. Mudler moved to approve this appointment, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor McFarland presented an update on COVID-19. There are twenty-seven confirmed cases with another five probable and a hospitalization rate of 12%. She indicated twenty-two of the twenty-seven have recovered. She shared two graphics from the health department that displayed statistics including age range of cases. The age range with the highest number of cases in Watertown is 20-29 years of age.

Mayor McFarland explained that City staff worked to respond to the Supreme Court ruling last week and disseminate information to the public as quickly as possible. She said that the current recommendations would need to be reconsidered if an outbreak occurs or if the healthcare system would be inundated with cases. The Mayor indicated City staff is working with those planning special events in the area and will issue refunds to special event permits that were cancelled. She briefly explained the small business grant program that will come before the Council later in the meeting and indicated there was discussion at the Licensing Board level of the possibility of a fee reduction for Class B alcohol licenses. The Mayor also reported that City staff is meeting regularly to determine the feasibility and future of recreation programs.

Mayor McFarland reported that City departments will open to the public beginning June 1. She indicated that City offices would be open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday at first to keep exposure down and to allow time for building modifications including installation of glass barriers to be completed. The Mayor explained the building modifications should be complete by the end of June. Also beginning June 1, City meetings will begin to occur with a combination of in-person and remote attendance.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Certified accounts in the amount of \$636,244.75 were presented. Ald. Wetzel moved to pay all certified accounts, seconded by Ald. Holthaus and carried by roll call vote: Yes-5; No-0; Abstain-3 (Mudler, Wendt, Ruetten). Complete listing of accounts payable is open for public inspection in City Clerk/Treasurer's office.

REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Reports presented: Cash Investment Summary 4/30/20; Licensing Board 5/13/20; Payroll Summaries 4/22-5/5/20; Police & Fire Commission 3/9/20; Reserve Balance 4/30/20; Site Plan Review Committee 5/11/20; Transit Commission 5/12/20; Watertown Housing Authority 3/19/20. All reports were accepted as presented.

LICENSES

Beverage Operator Applications, Exhibit A. Ald. Ruetten moved to approve Exhibit A Operator Licenses as presented, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Agent change for Firecracker Pub, 516 E. Main Street, Kenneth P. Carlin, Exhibit B. Ald. Holthaus moved to approve Exhibit B Agent Change as presented, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTIONS

Exh. #9011, Resolution to approve Rock River Stormwater Group intergovernmental agreement. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Bartz. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9012, Resolution to approve purchase of Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc (ESRI) License. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Holthaus. Schmid asked if this replaces Resolution 8993 passed in April. Peter Hartz indicated that this is a better package and is a \$15,000 savings over three years. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9013, Resolution to approve bulk fuel pump system upgrade for Water Systems. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9014, Resolution to approve submittal of 2019 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Holthaus moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. #9015, Resolution to purchase John Deere UTV for Water Systems. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Ald. Wendt asked if we need this now or if it could be held off until next year. Mayor McFarland indicated this purchase was in the water budget and is not coming from the general fund. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9016, Resolution to establish curbside pickup of bulk items with charges. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Bartz. Mayor McFarland indicated she asked the Street Department to find a solution for residents unable to take items to the Street Department on their own. Ald. Wendt asked if there would be a senior citizen discount. Mayor McFarland said that the initial rates do not cover the cost of disposing items and we are incurring additional employee time to pick up items. Ald. Mudler noted that picking up of bulk items is a worker's compensation concern as well as many work injuries have been caused by employees picking up large items. He added the cost needs to cover time, labor and risk of injury. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9017, Resolution to purchase a one-ton truck for the Street Department. *Sponsor: Mayor Mudler. From: Public Works.* Ald. Holthaus moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Ald. Wendt asked if this was budgeted. Jay Haberkorn responded affirmatively. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9018, Resolution to approve Wastewater Utility purchase of real estate. *Sponsor: Ald. Mudler. From: Public Works.* Attorney Simon-Silva requested that this item be tabled to a future meeting. Ald. Wendt moved to table to next common council meeting, seconded by Ald. Wetzel. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9019, Resolution to authorize purchase/installation of airport fencing with funds carried over from 2019 budget. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Wagner. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9020, Resolution to approve General Engineering Company contract to hire contract employee for Engineering Department. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Ald. Ruetten indicated that this is a good deal. The engineering rate is well below the market standard. Ald. Schmid asked if this is filling the gap for the position that we weren't able to find a candidate for. Mayor McFarland answered affirmatively and added that the City has been trying to fill the position since last fall someone is needed for the construction season. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9021, Resolution to un-restrict and release fund balance from Capital Projects 2018 Flooding Reserve Account. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Wagner. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9022, Resolution to amend Fund 60 Budget to establish and emergency small business assistance grant program. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Mayor McFarland indicated this is a COVID relief program and that grants will be awarded based on first come, first served basis with the application process opening June 1. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9023, Resolution to amend 2020 budget of Fund 05 to transfer funds to cover a purchase of a 9' dump body for the Forestry Department. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Holthaus. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9024, Resolution to purchase a one-ton truck for the Forestry Department. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Mudler. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9025, Resolution to update 2020 payroll resolution to add position of Accounting Clerk to replace one Administrative Assistant in the Clerk's Office. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Wagner moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9026, Resolution to amend 2020 budget of Fund 01 to transfer funds to cover a decorative street light downtown. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

Exh. #9027, Resolution to accept bid for publication of council proceedings and city advertising and designate office city newspaper. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance.* Ald. Schmid moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Wagner. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received during the call. Clerk/Treasurer Friedl stated that no comments were received by mail or email.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Schmid moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Wagner and carried by voice vote at 7:59 p.m.

Elissa Friedl, Clerk/Treasurer

(Complete video of Council Proceedings on DVD.)

(DISCLAIMER: These minutes are uncorrected; any corrections will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.)