

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Mayor David called the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Watertown to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Alderpersons McFarland, Smith, Berg, Larsen, Zgonc, Coughlin, Tietz, Maron and Romlein. (9) Absent: None (0). Also present were Assistant Fire Chief Kraig Biefeld, Police Chief Tim Roets, City Engineer Jaynellen Holloway and City Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Rupprecht. Absent – City Attorney Will Gruber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Mayor David inquired if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, August 19, 2014. Alderperson Larsen pointed out that on page 3, where Mayor David was presenting the preliminary estimates, the word population was missing. It should read, "Mayor David presented the preliminary estimates of population as of January 1, 2014 for both Dodge and Jefferson County". There being no other corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Cheryl Mitchell, 819 Maple Crest Lane, was present representing Holiday Inn and Super 8. Cheryl stated her opposition to going from a 3% Room Tax increase to 7%. Cheryl stated that tourism taxes in other communities are paid by others like restaurants and not just hotels. She has used our lower tax rate as a selling feature in trying to negotiate rates.

Kim Erdmann, representing the Watertown Economic Development Organization, was present, along with Todd Scheid, a Board Member. Kim spoke about the Branding Committee and the progress that they are making. They are in the final phases of the proposal and will be applying for a grant to assist in the process of recommending a brand for Watertown. Kim also passed around a handout of businesses that are currently looking for 70 to 100 acre parcels. He wanted the Council to understand what we need to do to be competitive, as we do not have that kind of acreage available. He also pointed out that we have two current businesses, Idle Free and Fischer Barton Tech Center, who are looking to expand. We need to make those businesses know that they are loved by Watertown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee, August 25, 2014. 1. Discuss proposed Room Tax Increase. Susan Dascenzo, from the Chamber of Commerce Main Street Program and Tourism Committee was present to recommend an increase from 3% to 7% in the Room Tax. After considerable discussion around the uses for Room Tax and how it could benefit tourism activities in the City, and also regarding the collecting of room tax, a motion was made and seconded to raise the tax from 3% to 7% and to also change the method of collecting the tax from quarterly to monthly. This motion passed unanimously. 2. Discuss writing off some delinquent Person Property taxes. City Clerk/Treasurer Cindy Rupprecht presented a list of past due Personal Property taxes, many of which went bankrupt or are no longer in business. A resolution will be presented to recommend writing these off. 3. Discuss a bid for a bus. In the 2014 Budget, a 24 passenger bus was budgeted. Six bids were presented, with Atlas Bus Sales being the lowest bidder at \$50,784.00. A resolution will be presented with the State share being 80% of the cost and the City share being 20%. 4. Discuss cropland bids. Only one bid was received for approximately 19 acres of farmland near the Airport. After discussion

regarding the bid of only \$1,000.00 per year, a motion was made and seconded to rebid the cropland. This motion passed unanimously. 5. Discuss the City's participation in the MCDC Initiative involving continuing disclosure to the SEC, (Securities Exchange Commission). City Clerk/Treasurer Rupprecht was present to explain this initiative. There is a requirement that the City's Financial Statements be posted on a website for others to see that may be interested in purchasing our bonds. For the year ending 12/31/2008, the financial statements were missed being filed to one of our accounts. The FCC is pretty stringent on their requirements of these postings and is attempting to get this information from any Bond Issuers rectified. The FCC is encouraging self-reporting by Financial Advisors and Municipal Issuers. Our filings have been reviewed by R. W. Baird and are in the process of being reviewed by Quarles & Brady. If our participation is recommended by Quarles & Brady, a resolution will be presented to the Council. 6. Review salt bid. At a previous Finance Committee meeting it was recommended that Rick make the purchase of 900 ton of salt, with the funding for this to come back to the Committee. City Clerk/Treasurer Rupprecht was present to discuss that she discovered the Workman's Comp Account #01-51-934-46 was over budgeted for 2014. The request for salt is around \$63,000.00. A resolution will be presented to amend the budget to take the money from Workman's Comp and transfer it to the Salt Account. 7. Discuss the Five Year Capital Project Plan. The Mayor informed the Committee that he has asked Department Heads to present a list of their Five Year Capital Purchases. This would not be just equipment, but would include major repairs, building replacements, etc. Having this list of information will allow the Finance Committee to set priorities as to what needs to be purchased and what needs to be replaced or repaired in the years to come and hopefully will help with planning. 8. Closed Session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) to discuss personnel issues. Motion was made and seconded to go into closed session. Following the discussion a motion was made to reconvene into open session where Alderperson Maron, seconded by Alderperson Larsen, moved to approve the performance evaluations. The report was received and placed on file.

Public Works Commission, August 19, 2014. 1. Carpet Recycling Program Status. Street Superintendent Rick Schultz presented an update, stating that the existing program had been re-negotiated and the City would be continuing to partner with Y's Way as a location for dropping off carpet related materials. 2. Neenah Street Extension to Boomer Street. Street Superintendent Rick Schultz stated the Street Department is currently doing work on Neenah Street and it would be cost effective to extend and open Neenah to Boomer. This would benefit the Fire Department for access in cases of emergency and the Street Department for its snow plowing and other operations. The cost of making the extension would be about \$3,000.00 and Rick felt there was money in the budget. Alderperson Romlein surveyed everyone on the section of Neenah to Franklin and just about everyone was opposed to opening up the street. In an effort to satisfy the neighbors, Alderperson Romlein was proposing to open the street with signage that would be placed to discourage public use on the south end where it would intersect with Boomer Street. This motion passed. Yes – 3. No – 2. Alderperson Berg was asked to have our City Attorney review this action to see whether it could be improved as proposed, yet legally restricted in its use as suggested by this motion. The report was received and placed on file.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor David presented an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals: Mike Rollert, 604 N. Votech Dr., for a partial term replacing Patrick Flannick. Alderperson Zgonc moved for recommending this appointment, seconded by Alderperson Coughlin and carried on a roll call vote. Yes – 9. No – none.

Mayor David then pointed out that there should have been a letter on their desks from Johnson & Helleckson Real Estate, LLC., stating their opposition of raising the Room Tax from 3% to 7%. Mayor David then indicated there was a memo regarding teleconferencing that all Alderpersons should have received as well.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Certified accounts in the amount of \$439,660.64 were presented for payment. Alderperson Romlein moved to pay all certified accounts, seconded by Alderperson Maron and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – 0.. (Complete listing of accounts payable is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer.)

REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The following reports were presented: Board of Canvassers – August 15, 2014. Family Center Finance Committee – August 20, 2014. Payroll Summaries – August 6 - 19, 2014. Plan Commission – August 25, 2014. Transit Commission – August 18, 2014. Zoning Board of Appeals – August 19, 2014. All reports were accepted as printed.

ORDINANCES

Ord. #14-20, to amend Section 11.130(2)(b), Dogs, of Chapter 11 was presented. *Sponsor: Alderperson Zgonc. From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee.* Alderperson Tietz moved for the adoption of this ordinance on its second reading, along with Ordinance #14-21 and #14-22, seconded by Alderperson Larsen and carried on a roll call vote. Yes – 9. No – none.

Ord. #14-21, to amend Section 11.163(15), Rules of Conduct, was presented. *Sponsor: Alderperson Tietz. From: Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission.*

Ord. #14-22, to create Section 11.130(1)(a), Animals not to run at large was presented. *Sponsor: Alderperson Tietz. From: Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission.*

Ord. #14-23, to amend Section 3.17(3) & 3.17(5) of Chapter 3, Finance relating to Room Tax was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderperson Tietz moved for the adoption of this ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Alderperson Maron. After considerable discussion Alderperson Berg moved to amend the ordinance, to change the rate from 7% to 5%, seconded by Alderperson Coughlin. This motion failed on the following roll call vote: Yes – McFarland, Berg, Larsen & Coughlin (4). No – Smith, Zgonc, Tietz, Maron and Romlein (5). The motion to adopt this ordinance on its first reading carried on the following roll call vote: Yes – Smith, Larsen, Zgonc, Tietz, Maron and Romlein (6). No – McFarland, Berg and Coughlin (3).

RESOLUTIONS

Exhibit #8072, to amend the Purchasing Policy to provide a Taxpayers Benefit to local businesses was presented. *Sponsor: Alderperson Berg. From: The Public Works Commission.* Alderperson Romlein moved to remove this resolution from the table, seconded by Alderperson Smith and carried on a roll call vote. Yes – 9. No – 0. Alderperson Smith laid out the background regarding this resolution and how it came to the Council with an unfavorable recommendation back in January. He pointed out that there were new Council members and he felt this discussion should take place regarding this policy at the Committee level again. Alderperson Smith moved to refer this resolution in its current form back to the Finance Committee in an effort to add a sunset provision and work on the anti-competitive language in the resolution. This was seconded by Alderperson Tietz and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – McFarland, Smith, Berg, Zgonc, Coughlin, Tietz, Maron and Romlein (8). No – Larsen (1).

Exhibit #8077, to amend the budget to reduce Workman's Comp Account #01-51-94-46 by \$62,464.00 and increase Snow and Ice Control Supply Account #01-54-35-18 by the same amount, was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor*

David. From: The Finance Committee. Alderperson Romlein moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Maron and carried on a roll call vote. Yes – 9. No – none.

Exhibit #8078, to authorize the write-off of various Personal Property tax bills, as listed, was presented.

Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee. Alderperson Maron moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Larsen and carried on a roll call vote. Yes – 9. No – none.

Exhibit #8079, to authorize the purchase of a 24 passenger bus from Atlas Bus Sales for \$50,784.00, with 80% being funded by a Transit Capital Grant and 20%, or \$10,157.00 being the City's share, to be charged to the Transit Capital Outlay Account #05-57-11-70 was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderperson Coughlin moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Zgonc and carried on a roll call vote. Yes – 9. No – none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Alderperson Coughlin moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderperson Larsen and carried on a voice vote. The time being 7:53 p.m.

Cynthia D. Rupprecht

City Clerk/Treasurer

CDR/dn

(Complete video of Council Proceedings on DVD.)

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