

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Mayor John David called the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Watertown to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

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

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, October 20, 2015. There being none, the minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor David declared open, at 7:03 p.m. the public hearing regarding the 2016 Budget. Ina Trummer, 807 Fieldcrest Court, was present to address the council regarding the budget. Ina stated she didn't feel there should be any money going towards debt. In the Capital Projects Budget she understood the phone and 911 systems, but could not understand why we needed a 24 passenger bus, a tandem axle truck, or a new garbage truck. She stated that the garbage truck was recently purchased and felt it should last longer. She stated that there was unnecessary spending in this budget and that the Council is not doing their job. There being no further comments, Mayor David declared the public hearing closed at 7:07 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee, October 26, 2015. 1. Proposal for Investment Advisory Services from Ehlers Investment Partners. Ken Herdeman, President of Ehlers Investment Partners, gave a presentation on the services that they can offer. Ehlers has many years of service in this area and only serves local governments. They do a cash flow study to map out our needs and then maximize our investments to meet those cash flow needs. While there is a fee for their services, history has shown the returns will bring twice what we are now receiving, even after fees are paid. A resolution will be presented. 2. Update on Transit System bids and contract award. Clerk/Treasurer Rupprecht was present to explain that there were two bids received for the taxi service. After review, the bid from Passenger Transit, Inc. came out on top. Transit Commission is recommending that the Finance Committee and the Council go ahead with this choice. A resolution will be presented. 3.& 4. Review of Mayor's Salary and Alderperson's Salary. Clerk/Treasurer Rupprecht brought before the Committee, a history of the salary increases for Mayor and Alderpersons. Because of State law, salary increases cannot take place until after an elected official is elected, so the increase for the Mayor is suggested to begin April 19, 2016. There has not been an increase in the Mayor's salary since 2010. A proposed 3% increase is also recommended for Alderpersons, which would not take effect until April 18, 2017. Resolutions will be presented for both of these increases. 5. Review & approve WI DOT payment for Federal Airport Project. Kryss Brown, from the airport, was present to explain that because of overruns on the Fuel Farm Project, and some of the land being purchased for the Clear Zone at the Airport, the City has received a bill for \$16,150.00, which the State would like half of this year. After a lengthy discussion it was determined we could not make payment until January of 2016. 6. Review & approve updated Environmental Health Technician pay grade change. The JDQ for this position was submitted to Carlson Dettmann, who is recommending a Grade change. Carol Quest, City Health Officer, was present to request that this position move to a

Grade H, Step 2. Motion was made and seconded to approve this change with three yes votes and one abstention. 7. Review & approve the transfer of \$10,000.00 from Building, Safety and Zoning Salary Account to City-Wide Network Account. Some money was cut from the City-Wide Network Account in 2015. We currently have an invoice of over \$3,000.00, which needs to be paid. Engineer Holloway is requesting we transfer this from Building, Safety and Zoning Salary Account. A resolution will be presented. The report was received and placed on file.

Public Works Commission, October 27, 2015. 1. Discuss request for street light at southwest corner of Steeplechase Drive & Hunter Oaks Blvd. A resident has requested better lighting at this intersection. Engineer Holloway contacted WE Energies to get a pricing cost. There is a cost of initially \$660.00 and lease payments of \$79.16 per month, or \$4,434.99 upfront and \$21.36 per month as a usage fee. This is for a decorative coach light, which is more expensive, but consistent with the surrounding neighborhood. Street Superintendent Rick Schultz pointed out that we do not have funds remaining in this year's budget for this request and that a traditional pole is much cheaper, at approximately \$1,400.00 per light. Motion was made to deny this light request, but be open to ideas to reduce the City's obligation for payment. This was seconded and passed, with Alderperson Romlein casting a dissenting vote. 2. Discuss request for street light at dead end of Octagon Court. Engineer Holloway reported that she received a request for a street light at this location. She is still waiting for estimates from WE Energies. Due to there being no money remaining in this year's budget, Alderperson Raether moved to review this street light request next year, when funds are available. This was seconded and passed unanimously. 3. Review & approve Accela GIS Server Software. Water Systems Manager Freber presented a quote for this software. Kevin feels this purchase will give us the ability to use mobile solutions at the street level to make our asset management software more effective. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase at a cost of \$6,598 which passed unanimously. 4. Review & approve 2nd Offense Fines for Tampering with Water Stops. Water Systems Manager Freber reported that he is having problems with individuals tampering with our City's water shut-off valves and wants to put a stop to it. He is recommending that anyone warned of such violation should be subject to a fine up to the \$500.00 limit. Kevin handed out City Code materials and the Bond Schedule, which supports this violation. Motion was made to go along with Kevin's recommendation for dealing with any future tampering and to report back in 6 months on how the enforcement of the policy is doing. This was seconded and passed unanimously. 5. Discuss Private Water Wells in the City. Charles Boyssa wants to drill a well so that they can use it for water for their storm water pond at the property currently under construction off of Hwy. R. Chapter 17 of our Code strictly prohibits anyone from drilling a well within the City, if there is a City water distribution system available. After discussion a motion was made to deny Mr. Boyssa's request for a private well at his property off of Hwy. R. This was seconded and approved unanimously. 6. Review & approve Accela Server Side Software Upgrade. Water Systems Manager Freber is recommending True Point Solutions for GIS Integration with their Accela Asset Management Software. A resolution will be presented. 8. Update on 2nd Street Bridge Water & Sewer Installation. Water Systems Manager Freber provided an update. Installation will occur in late summer, through fall, of 2016 of the water and sewer portions. The bridge should be open during most of the construction. The actual bridge construction will occur in 2017. Kevin has budgeted \$550,000.00, with the sanitary sewer syphon portion being \$450,000.00 and the water main at about \$100,000.00. DOT will be buying permanent easements from the affected property owners. Lastly, Kevin mentioned the importance of connecting water to both sides of North Second Street for the purposes of looping the system for optimal water pressure. The report was received and placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Citizen comments regarding West Main Street viaduct. Sara Zarling, 605 S. Washington Street, was present to address the Council regarding this issue. She has recently attended a Steering and Rules Committee meeting in Milwaukee, regarding a 99 year old rail bridge there. Milwaukee is also having difficulty obtaining inspection reports and she urges the City to be vigilant in its efforts. She suggested that we file a Freedom of Information Act Request with the Federal Railroad Administration and also recommended that Alderpersons contact Milwaukee Alderpersons, Robert Bauman and Terry Witkowski.

Colin Butcher, 705 Long Street, was also present to make comments. He recommended that we keep pushing and pushing, as a major disaster could happen there soon. He stated that this crossing is getting worse by the week. He also stated that Fox 6 has been out there and is aware of the situation and has stated they will be taking it to the Federal Government.

Kathy Houchin, 604 Long Street, was also present to state she had contact with the Mayor and Alderperson Smith back in May. Her concern is that the railroad parks cars and leaves them sitting on the rail for extended periods of time. With this being a double track, it means that when another train passes through and one is sitting there, double the weight is on the viaduct at one time which is even worse and she fears for safety.

Engineer Holloway then showed slides containing photos taken before and after the work that was done by the railroad on October 26 & 27, 2015.

Alderperson Smith stated, while the pictures are helpful to show deterioration, they don't show the evidence of the major cracks. He stated that there is a developing slant to the walls as the cracks are that wide. There is a huge amount of crumbling concrete as well. There is no evidence of any maintenance or structural integrity of the bridge. He then stated that we must begin more formal proceedings. Alderperson Smith made a motion to direct our City Attorney to file a Freedom of Information Act Petition with the Federal Railroad Administration seeking inspection reports for the bridge and also requested that the Mayor schedule a closed session of the Council to take a look at the best course of action necessary to get the documentation needed. This was seconded by Alderperson Tietz and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Mayor David then informed the council that he has a Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. where he will be including a closed session to discuss this issue and invited all Alderpersons to attend. He also will be writing letters to our two Senators and to Congressman Sensenbrenner. Mayor David further stated that he had been contacted by a citizen, Richard Hoefler, who could not come, but wanted his name and information on record as being concerned about this viaduct as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussion on 2016 Budget. Alderperson Berg had several comments regarding the Budget. He first addressed the Fire Department's estimated revenues and asked questions about the public fire protection. Assistant Chief Kraig Biefeld explained that this is actually revenue that goes to the Water Utility for the maintenance of the hydrant system. Alderperson Berg then commented regarding the Police Department purchasing used vehicles. Police Captain Kaminski explained the department's logic behind some of these purchases. Alderperson Berg then moved on to Economic & Development Funds as an area of concern. He further commented about the amount being allocated for seal coating and wished that there possibly would be more latitude to use these funds in some other way. He would prefer to take a break from seal coating and use this money for street repairs.

Alderson Smith commented that this was an extremely conservative budget in some of the toughest financial times he has experienced. He stated that the City is not spending beyond its means. He further stated that the State has not kept faith with their promise regarding sales tax, when implemented. He recalls our shared revenue payments being around \$3.3 million in 2001 and in 2015 they have been cut back to \$2.6 million. He noted that our Budget was only increasing about .7% and that we had further cuts in Transportation Aids of \$108,000.00. He complimented Department Heads and employees, as well as the Mayor and Finance Committee, for working together and being committed in making this work.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Certified accounts in the amount of \$400,514.40 were presented for payment. Alderson Romlein moved to pay all certified accounts, seconded by Alderson Berg and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9, No – None. (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: Airport Commission – September 9, 2015. Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission – October 5, 2015. Payroll Summaries – October 14 – October 27, 2015. Plan Commission – October 26, 2015. Senior Center Advisory Board – October 21, 2015. Watertown Family Center Board of Directors – October 27, 2015. Watertown Family Center Finance Committee – October 21, 2015. All reports were accepted as printed.

ORDINANCES

Ord. #15-37, to amend 2.01(3) of Chapter 2 and to amend 2.07(2)(a) of Chapter 2, Officials, Boards and Commissions was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderson Zgonc moved for the adoption of this ordinance on its second reading, seconded by Alderson Smith and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Ord. #15-38, to repeal Section 7.05(2), of Chapter 7 of the Traffic Code, to repeal the following: On south Second Street, from Western Avenue to Jefferson Street, vehicular traffic shall move only in a northerly direction. *Sponsor: Alderson Zgonc. From: The Public Safety & Welfare Committee.* Alderson Zgonc moved for the adoption of this ordinance on its second reading, seconded by Alderson Berg and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Ord. #15-39, to amend Chapter 18 of the Zoning Code for the Official Zoning Map for the City of Watertown to change from GI (General Industrial) to GB (General Business) Zoning, the property located at 1202 Wakoka Street was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Plan Commission – With a positive recommendation.* Alderson Tietz moved for the adoption of this ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Alderson Maron and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

RESOLUTIONS

Exhibit #8229, to authorize pay increases for the Mayor's position was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderson Tietz moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderson Smith. After discussion about ways to measure job performance of elected officials, this motion carried on a roll call vote: Yes – McFarland, Smith, Berg, Larsen, Zgonc, Raether, Tietz, Maron (8). No – Romlein (1).

Exhibit #8230, to authorize pay increases to Aldersons salary to be effective on April 18, 2017 was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderson Berg moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderson Smith and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – McFarland, Smith, Berg, Larsen, Zgonc, Raether, Tietz, Maron (8). No – Romlein (1).

Exhibit #8231, to authorize entering into a contract with Passenger Transit, Inc. for the years 2016-2017 was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderperson Raether moved for the adoption of This resolution, seconded by Alderperson Smith and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Exhibit #8232, to enter into a lease agreement for vehicles with Passenger Transit, Inc. for the year 2016 was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: Finance Committee.* Alderperson Smith moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Raether and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Exhibit #8233, to authorize entering into an agreement with Ehlers Investment Partners, LLC, to provide investment advisory services was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderperson Tietz moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Maron and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Exhibit #8234, to amend the budget amount of the Building, Safety & Zoning Salary Account #01-52-41-10 to decrease by \$10,000.00 and to amend the budget amount of the City-Wide Network Account #01-54-10-41 to increase by \$10,000.00 was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderperson Larsen moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Smith and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

Exhibit #8235, adopt the Employee Handbook of Policies and Procedures was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor David. From: The Finance Committee.* Alderperson Berg moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Zgonc and carried on a voice vote.

Exhibit #8236, to authorize entering into a contract with True Point Solutions for \$18,480.00 for server software upgrades and training, to be charged to Wastewater Treatment Plant Account #02-97-30-00 was presented. *Sponsor: Alderperson Berg. From: The Public Works Commission.* Alderperson Romlein moved for the adoption of this resolution, seconded by Alderperson Maron and carried on a roll call vote: Yes – 9. No – none.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Ina Trummer, 807 Fieldcrest Court, made further comments regarding the budget. She stated she felt they were using Elmer's Glue with the seal coating project and was not in favor of it. Regarding Economic Development, she stated she felt we have paid umpteen people good money to figure out how best to improve downtown, yet nothing is happening. We are not bringing in new businesses and there is no place to shop, further stating that Watertown is nothing more than a bedroom community and we need to figure out how to get more tax base.

Sara Zarling, 605 S. Washington Street, also made additional comments regarding the rail safety issues. She encouraged more communities to get involved, as that was the only way we are going to get action. She further encouraged us to invite our representatives to come and speak to us about these issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Alderperson Tietz moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderperson Berg and carried on a voice vote, the time being 8:46 p.m.

Cindy Rupprecht

City Clerk/Treasurer

CR/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.)