

**City of Stevens Point
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Chambers
County-City Building**

**July 16, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Andrew J. Halverson, presiding

Roll Call: Present: Ald. Beveridge, Suomi, O’Meara, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Patton, Moore.

Excused: Ald. R. Stroik, Phillips

Also

Present: City Atty. Molepske; Clerk Moe; C/T Schlice; Directors Schrader, Ostrowski, Lemke, Schatschneider; Assessor Siebers; Police Chief Ruder; Emergency Mgt. Director McGinty; Fire Chief Kujawa; Human Resources Mgr. Jakusz; Asst. to the Mayor Pazdernik; B.C. Kowalski-Stevens Point Journal; Matt Brown-Portage Co. Gazette; Brandi Makuski-Stevens Point City Times

2. Salute to the Flag and Mayor’s opening remarks.

3. Consideration and possible action of the minutes of the Common Council meeting of June 18, 2012.

Ald. Moore **moved**, Ald. Person O’Meara seconded, to approve the minutes of the Common Council meeting of June 18, 2012.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. *Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council on specific agenda items other than a “Public Hearing” must register their request at this time. Those who wish to address the Common Council during a “Public Hearing” are not required to identify themselves until the “Public Hearing” is declared open by the Mayor.

5. Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, expressed her concern that Stevens Point does not have a fence ordinance, enforcing that the “good” or most attractive side of the fence face a neighbor.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street W, Whiting cited a 1968 publication on the topic of balance of power in government. He expressed disappointment with the current administration’s lack

of understanding the difference between “Weak Mayor vs. Strong Mayor”. Mr. Rocheleau also expressed his disagreement regarding the flashing light ordinance; 9.01(a).

Sam Levin, 1600 Sherman Ave., raised concern over the poor condition of tombstones in Union Cemetery. He asked that funding/community services be made available for upkeep.

Veronica Isherwood, 6979 Hwy 54, Plover, introduced herself as a candidate for the office of District Attorney for the August 13, 2012 election. She currently is an Assistant D.A. and has been for the past eleven years. She cited her ability to work well with local law enforcement and asks for the support of the Council members.

Louis Molepske Jr., 1101 Ridge Road, introduced himself as a candidate for the office of District Attorney for the August 13, 2012 election. He presented an overview of his agenda which includes working closely with the corrections department and local law enforcement, re-instituting training for continuing education of legal code, and focusing on the division of criminal cases.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

6. Minutes and actions of the Plan Commission meeting of July 2, 2012.

Ald. Moore **moved**, Ald. Patton seconded, to approve minutes and actions of the Plan Commission meetings of July 2, 2012.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit – 1331 Westmore Court – to renovate their detached garage into a second living space.

Mayor Halverson declared public hearing open.

As no one wished to speak, Mayor Halverson declared the public hearing closed.

8. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Beveridge **moved**, Ald. Wiza seconded, to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 1331 Westmore Court – to renovate their detached garage into a second living space.

Ald. Wiza asked how this permit is different from a similar permit that was denied for a Michigan Avenue property.

Director Ostrowski said the above area is permitted to request additional living units.

Ald. Trzebiatowski said the permit does not give any specific limitations or guidelines for the use of dog kennels. He raised concerns about the possibility of multiple dog kennels and the property being used as a business.

Director Ostrowski stated the zoning ordinance does permit the use of a dog kennel but disallows the use of a dog kennel for the operation of a business.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Beveridge, Suomi, O'Meara, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski,
Trzebiatowski, Patton, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Public Hearing – Amend Conditional Use Permit – 940 Maria Dr – to remove landscaping for parking lot screening.

Mayor Halverson declared public hearing open.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, said she visited the property and it is in dire need of improvement. The fence used is insufficient. She said Stevens Point lacks a Fence Ordinance of which she feels should state that the “best” side of a fence should face their neighbor. She said screening should be put up to hide dumpsters, meters, and chemical containers. She also raised concern about an unprotected drainage pond she feels is a danger to children. She proposes the city consider adopting a Fence Ordinance similar to Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids and Wausau.

As no one else wished to speak, Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

10. Resolution on the above.

Ald. O'Meara said he was not supporting this change. The Conditional Use was legitimate and is still. The city has screening requirements for a reason. No evidence was provided to warrant a change.

Ald. Wiza said he had not received any complaints regarding the fencing or the condition of the property.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, Ald. Patton seconded, to approve Amendment to the Conditional Use Permit – 940 Maria Dr – to remove landscaping for parking lot screening.

Mayor Halverson clarified that this is an “and/or” choice and is in addition to the fence.

Ald. Trzebiatowski inquired about the depth of the drainage pond and asked if it requires protective fencing.

Director Ostrowski replied it does not require fencing.

Mayor Halverson said the pond serves as a water retention pond.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Wiza, Patton, Moore.
Nays: Ald. Beveridge, Suomi, O'Meara, M. Stroik, Slowinski,
Trzebiatowski. Motion failed.

Ald. Patton **moved**, Ald. Moore seconded, to approve the minutes and actions of the Personnel Committee meeting of July 9, 2012.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
 Nays: None. Motion carried.

16. Creation of and appointments to a Special Committee to examine the potential appointment process for the positions of Comptroller/Treasurer and City Attorney.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street W, Whiting, stated he opposes the short time frame and the process. He said there is not enough time to give this issue a full hearing prior to the election. He believes there needs to be certain requirements for elected positions and more competition in these positions.

Barb Jacob, 1616 Depot Street, stated she was disappointed the Personnel Committee did not form its own oversight committee. She said there is insufficient time prior to the election to accomplish the goals the Special Committee has set forth. She volunteered to sit on the committee as a liaison to better assist the Special Committee in understanding the opinions of Stevens Point residents.

Mayor Halverson read his memo addressed to the Common Council regarding the formation of and appointments to the Special Committee to review potential structures for review of appointments to the positions of Comptroller/Treasurer and City Attorney. He stated his intentions of the appointments to the Special Committee were to prevent “stacking the deck” on this matter. Mayor Halverson further urged the Common Council to form a Special Committee within the Common Council, posing to the Committee to put forth questions and concerns regarding the implementation of appointed positions. Mayor Halverson also referred to the requirement of a referendum to be presented to the general public in November. He reiterated how crucial the public connection is to this issue.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, Ald. Slowinski seconded, to approve the creation of, and appointments to, a Special Committee to examine the potential appointment process for the positions of Comptroller/Treasurer and City Attorney.

Ald. Wiza said he was originally concerned that this Special Committee was charged with finding potential ways in making appointments to these positions happen. He said he is leaning towards opposing the appointed positions but believes the topic warrants exploration. He said after listening to the Mayor’s comments it is clear that the Special Committee is not charged with figuring out how to make the appointments happen.

Ald. Beveridge said he has not made up his mind on the issue, he urged more discussion. He said the matter should not be put on hold for another couple of years, now is the time for discussion.

Ald. Trzebiatowski said last week during discussions, compelling reasons were brought forward to move in this direction, but there was no breakdown of how other municipalities of comparable size operate regarding these positions. He urges the Special Committee to incorporate in their discussions the successes and failures of other municipalities due to the appointment of the positions.

President Dave Schleihs introduced Assistant Chief Joseph Gemza, he noted the 2011 Annual EMS Report discusses issues such as why an ambulance doesn't always use lights and sirens, how the Fire Department/EMS Department work in unison for the betterment of the community. He encouraged the public to visit the Fire Station and all departments in the City. He said the departments would be offering the Emergency Services Citizens Academy again this year.

Assistant Chief Gemza noted the 2011 Annual EMS Report in its entirety can be found on the Stevens Point website. He presented an overview of the Portage County EMS Report highlighting statistics specific to the Stevens Point Fire/EMS Department. He said the cardiac survival rate for Stevens Point is 40 percent and the department took in over 2,000 calls, up 10.8 percent from last year. He said the department made over 3,000 emergency runs. He said the department intends to continue state of the art training as part of their 2012 goals. He said community awareness and response is an important factor in the success rate of patients onsite.

Ald. Wiza asked if there was any specific training that attributed to the success rate of the department.

Assistant Chief Gemza said the success is in part due to the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) that are used by law enforcement and first responders coupled with the use of hand CPR.

Ald. Trzebiatowski asked if the department has identified the attributes of Seattle's cardiac success rate of 45 percent.

Assistant Chief Gemza replied yes. The department visited Seattle, King County where they participated in the Citizens Academy to learn the techniques used in order to apply them here.

Ald. Beveridge asked if a person calling in a cardiac emergency could be directed to an AED located nearby if one was not onsite.

Assistant Chief Gemza replied no. Dispatch does not have those capabilities of linking into the CAD system, but he would welcome the opportunity to initiate a program that could provide such a service.

Ald. Wiza commended the Fire/EMS Department for a job well done. He asked what future training was required and would like the department to keep the Council informed since the budget is coming up.

Assistant Chief Gemza said they will be working closely with Dr. Timothy Vader utilizing state of the art training opportunities that are "protocol specific to Stevens Point". Dr. Vader will assume his roles and duties in October of this year.

21. Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.

Ald. O'Meara **moved**, Ald. Moore seconded, to approve the Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer

Roll Call: Ayes: All.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

22. Appointment of Supplemental Election Officials (Poll Workers).

Ald. Moore **moved**, Ald. O’Meara seconded, to approve the Appointment of Supplemental Election Officials (Poll Workers).

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
 Nays: None. Motion carried.

23. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

RMC – Revised Municipal Code

Persons who wish to address the Common Council may make a statement as long as it pertains to a **specific** agenda item. Persons who wish to speak on an agenda item will be limited to a five (5) minute presentation. Any person who wishes to address the Common Council on a matter which is not on the agenda will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes and the time strictly enforced under the item, “Persons who wish to address the mayor and council on non-agenda items.” Individuals should not expect to engage in discussion with members of the City Council and City staff.

Any person who has special needs while attending this meeting or needing agenda materials for this meeting should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569, TDD #346-1556, or by mail at 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Copies of ordinances, resolutions, reports and minutes of the committee meetings are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during the regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.