

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Chambers
County-City Building
1516 Church St.**

**May 15, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Mike Wiza, Presiding

PRESENT: Ald. Jennings, Shorr, Nebel, Oberstadt, Johnson, Slowinski, Kneebone, Dugan, McComb, Phillips, Morrow.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Attorney Beveridge, Clerk Moe, C/T Ladick, Dir. Schrader, Dir. Ostrowski, Dir. Lemke, Assessor Shepro, Fire Chief Finn, Assistant Pazdernik, Manager Jakusz, Nate Enwald, Portage County Gazette; Brandi Makuski, City Times.

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

Mayor Wiza welcomed new alderpersons Tori Jennings and Cindy Nebel, noted the retirements of Rick Gawlik and Kevin Ruehl of the Streets Department, and brought attention to Creative Economy Week.

3. *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.

Mayor Wiza reminded citizens to register at this time.

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

Megan Munyan, 3601 Page Dr. #4, Plover, representing Central Rivers Farmshed; introduced Central Rivers Farmshed and their efforts to understand why people do or do not attend Farmer's Markets.

Greg Wright, 1217 Franklin St., representing CREATE Portage County; described some of the events that would be held for Creative Economy Week.

5. Presentation by Senior Poppy Princess Rebecca Smart and Junior Poppy Princess Angelina Smart.

Mayor Wiza made a proclamation for the Senior and Junior Poppy Princesses.

Senior Poppy Princess Rebecca Smart read the poem, "In Flanders Field."

Junior Poppy Princess Angelina Smart described the symbolism behind the poppy flower for veterans.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

6. Minutes of the Common Council meeting of April 17, the ReOrganization meeting of April 18 and the Special Common Council meetings of May 4 and May 8, 2017.

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the minutes of the Common Council meetings of April 17, April 18, May 4 and May 8, 2017.

Ald. Shorr noted a correction to the appointments as George Doxtator was not replaced on the Housing Authority.

Mayor Wiza clarified that originally he thought the Housing Authority had an aldermanic position, necessitating the replacement of former Alderperson George Doxtator, but that was not the case. As a result, Mr. Doxtator would continue his term on the Housing Authority.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

7. Actions of the City Plan Commission meeting of May 1, 2017.

3. Request from Bailey Voigt, representing the property owner, for a sign variance to install wall signs above the signable area and beyond the total allowable signage at 1265 Main Street (Parcel ID: 2408-32-2027-18).

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Oberstadt seconded, to approve the actions of the City Plan Commission meeting of May 1, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

8. Resolution – Conditional Use Permit - Request to increase residential occupancy at 1700 Monroe Street (Parcel ID 2408-32-4035-10).

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. McComb seconded, to approve the resolution for a Conditional Use Permit to increase residential occupancy at 1700 Monroe St.

Ald. Dugan expressed concern for the fire safety of the property after meeting with Fire Chief Finn, and asked him if he recommended wired fire alarms for the property.

Fire Chief Finn replied the Fire Department's first two recommendations for the building were accepted, but they also felt strongly that connected smoke detectors were needed.

Ald. Dugan asked what the cost of installing connected smoke detectors would be.

Fire Chief Finn replied he did not know, but added a long term payment plan could be used.

Ald. Jennings asked Fire Chief Finn if sheet rock was required in the basement space.

Fire Chief Finn replied that he did not know.

Mayor Wiza asked if the property passed the fire inspection.

Fire Chief Finn replied that it did pass the fire inspection, but thought the conditional use permit could be used to make the property safer.

Ald. Johnson asked Fire Chief Finn to retell a story from a rental inspection discussion.

Fire Chief Finn told a story from a fire at a college student rental unit where a recent Christmas present of a smoke detector saved a student's life.

Ald. Morrow asked Kevin Orlikowski about the fire safety measures of the building.

Kevin Orlikowski, Plover, representing Turn of the Century LLC; stated all the smoke detectors are checked regularly, open flames are banned in the building and the current smoke detectors can be heard throughout the building. He also stated staff lives on the site.

Ald. Dugan described the poor condition of the building during her visits to the property and asked if a timeline for maintenance corrections could be made.

Mayor Wiza directed Ald. Dugan's inspection concerns to Dir. Ostrowski.

Dir. Ostrowski stated a number of maintenance issues were found on inspection and would need to be corrected regardless of the result of this Conditional Use Permit request.

Ald. Shorr recalled that connected smoke detectors had been considered cost prohibitive, but asked if they could be implemented over time.

Mr. Orlikowski stated that the age of the building necessitated many other repairs. He stated in order to accommodate connected smoke detectors the electricity would have to be rewired and that cost would be passed on to the lower-income occupants.

Ald. Phillips asked for the opinion of the alderperson the property is located in, Ald. McComb.

Ald. McComb was conflicted between the financial constraints of the applicant and the desire for additional fire safety.

Ald. Kneebone asked if other smoke detector options could circumvent the rewiring concerns and be easier financially.

Fire Chief Finn stated ADA compliance was essential and emphasized the importance of connected smoke detectors, but was uncertain about financial specifics.

Ald. Johnson repeated Ald. Jennings' question asking if sheet rock in the basement could be used as a fire barrier.

Fire Chief Finn wasn't sure if it was required by Code.

Mayor Wiza reminded the Council that the property had passed the fire inspection.

Fire Chief Finn stated that was correct.

Ald. Slowinski wondered if other options could be used to increase fire safety in the building by working with the applicant.

Ald. Oberstadt asked if the full cost of the connected smoke detectors would be too expensive for the lower-income occupants of the building.

Mr. Orlikowski replied that was correct.

Ald. Oberstadt asked for financial specifics regarding implementing smoke detectors.

Mayor Wiza added that housing for lower-income citizens is a priority for Stevens Point mentioning the United Way ALICE report coming soon.

Ald. Nebel expressed concern over the safety of the building's current occupants before considering increasing the capacity.

Mayor Wiza reiterated that the building passed the fire inspection.

Dir. Ostrowski recommended using approval of the Conditional Use Permit as a way to discuss with the applicant ways to alleviate Fire Chief Finn's smoke detector concerns.

Ald. Johnson **withdraws** her motion to increase residential occupancy at 1700 Monroe St.

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. Nebel seconded, to postpone the decision for a month with the suggestion that the applicant work with the staff to address the smoke detector condition recommended by Fire Chief Finn.

Ald. Shorr discussed the financial difficulty in addressing the need for affordable housing for lower-income citizens.

Ald. Morrow spoke for the strong desire of the applicant to provide affordable housing in the community and the challenges they've faced in maintaining the old building.

Ald. Jennings stated that although the building passed inspection, she did not want to dismiss the concerns of Fire Chief Finn.

Ald. Dugan was pleased with the possibility of coming together to find a cost-effective solution to Fire Chief Finn's smoke detector concerns.

Ald. Kneebone requested the postponement to be brief for the sake of the applicant.

Mayor Wiza expressed concern that a cost-effective alternative might not be found within a month.

Fire Chief Finn stated that Dir. Ostrowski recently found smoke detectors that would be cost-effective and address the fire safety concerns.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Majority.
Nays: Minority. Motion adopted.

9. Resolution – Transfer of approximately 0.22 acres of land from the City of Stevens Point to TS James LLC north of Clem’s Way and west of Worth Court (Parcel ID: 2308-02-1000-25).

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Oberstadt seconded, to approve the transfer of the 0.22 acres.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Morrow, Phillips, McComb, Dugan, Kneebone, Slowinski, Johnson, Oberstadt, Nebel, Shorr, Jennings.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

10. Resolution Introduction – Vacation of a portion of public right-of-way on Woodward Drive.

Ald. Slowinski **moved**, Ald. Oberstadt seconded, to approve the resolution introduction.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

11. Minutes and actions of the Board of Public Works meeting of May 8, 2017 and the minutes of the Special Board of Public Works meeting of April 17, 2017.

- 2. To purchase two (2) Toro GM 3280-D Mowers from Reinders for the Parks Department in the amount of \$63,962.05 net of trades.**
- 3. To purchase a John Deere 3046R Compact Utility Tractor from Riesterer & Schnell for the Parks Department in the amount of \$30,825.00 net of trade.**

Ald. Kneebone **moved**, Ald. Johnson seconded, to approve the minutes and actions of the Board of Public Works meeting of May 8, 2017 and the minutes of the Special Board of Public Works meeting of April 17, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Jennings, Shorr, Nebel, Oberstadt, Johnson, Slowinski, Kneebone, Dugan, McComb, Phillips, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

12. Ordinance Amendment – Traffic – Creation of twenty-six (26) designated permit parking spaces along the south and west side of Municipal Parking Lot No. 1 adjacent to Third Street and Water Street (Sections 8.09 (2)(d)1. and 9.05(aa)3. 1. of the RMC).

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Oberstadt seconded, to approve the Ordinance Amendment to create twenty-six (26) designated permit parking spaces along the south and west side of Municipal Parking Lot No. 1 adjacent to Third Street and Water Street.

Ald. McComb asked for the permit costs for residents.

Dir. Ostrowski replied that specific amounts had yet to be discussed for tenants.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Morrow, Phillips, McComb, Dugan, Kneebone,
Slowinski, Johnson, Oberstadt, Nebel, Shorr, Jennings.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

13. Minutes and actions of the Public Protection Committee meeting of May 8, 2017.

2. License List.

Ald. Oberstadt **moved**, Ald. McComb seconded, to approve the minutes and actions of the Public Protection Committee meeting of May 8, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

14. Actions of the Special Public Protection Committee meeting of May 15, 2017.

1. Requests to hold Events/Street Closures.

Clerk Moe reviewed the actions of the Special Public Protection Committee meeting, including the approval of the Running with the Flag 5K Run/Walk, UWSP Commencement ceremonies and an alley closure for a graduation party.

Ald. Oberstadt **moved**, Ald. Shorr seconded, to approve the actions of the Special Public Protection Committee meeting of May 15, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

15. Minutes and actions of the Personnel Committee meeting of May 8, 2017.

2. Out of Country Travel – Director of Utilities and Transportation.

3. New Position Request – Utility.

Ald. Slowinski **moved**, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the minutes and actions of the Personnel Committee meeting of May 8, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

16. Minutes and actions of the Finance Committee meeting of May 8, 2017.

2. Designation of Official Newspaper.

3. Transfer of Library Endowment to the Portage County Library Foundation.

4. Settlement and closeout of the Room Tax Fund, including transfers to the Willett Ice Arena Fund, Arts Center Fund, and Riverfront Rendezvous Fund.

5. Contract with State of Wisconsin for weights and measures inspection services.

6. Contract with Larry's Helping Hand LLC for weed removal and nuisance abatement.

7. Approval of Payment of Claims.

Nick Wood, Green Bay, WI; representing Multi Media Channels (Portage County Gazette); expressed his company's commitment to local journalism and defended the increased rates for publishing City notices by mentioning they were closer to the State's rates.

Mayor Wiza explained that recently the City had only gotten bids from the Portage County Gazette for publishing notices and this past year the rates they submitted nearly doubled.

C/T Ladick stated an additional \$5,000 to \$7,000 would need to be budgeted for publishing notices due to the rate increases.

Mayor Wiza stated legislation proposed at the state level could remove the requirement for notices to be published in newspapers.

Ald. Johnson asked about the State rates mentioned by Mr. Wood.

Atty. Beveridge replied that the State sets the maximum for rates, but not the minimum.

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the minutes and actions of the Finance Committee meeting of May 8, 2017.

Ald. Slowinski stated he needed to abstain from Item 6, but still wanted to vote on the rest of the Finance Committee Agenda.

Ald. Slowinski **moved**, Ald. Oberstadt seconded, to pull Item 6 for further consideration.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

Mayor Wiza called for a vote on accepting the minutes and actions of the Finance Committee Meeting of May 8, 2017 without Item 6.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Jennings, Shorr, Nebel, Oberstadt, Johnson, Slowinski, Kneebone, Dugan, McComb, Phillips, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Johnson seconded, to approve Item 6 of the minutes and actions of the Finance Committee Meeting of May 8, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Morrow, Phillips, McComb, Dugan, Kneebone, Johnson, Oberstadt, Nebel, Shorr, Jennings.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Ald. Slowinski. Motion adopted.

Ald. Shorr asked for the status of the official newspaper designation.

Mayor Wiza stated Atty. Beveridge could not find any grounds for denying the bid and as a result it was approved by the previous motion.

17. Actions of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of April 5, 2017.
7. Confirmation of bills.

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. Nebel seconded, to approve the actions of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of April 5, 2017.

Ald. Johnson mentioned the staffing needs presented by Chief Skibba and requested similar presentations from the other departments.

Mayor Wiza stated those presentations would be at June's Personnel Committee meeting.

Atty. Beveridge mentioned a change was made for the Common Council to approve minutes with the actions of the committees only if their membership consisted largely of Common Council members.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

18. Actions of the Board of Park Commissioners of May 3, 2017.

Ald. Oberstadt **moved**, Ald. McComb seconded, to approve the actions of the Board of Park Commissioners meeting on May 3, 2017

Ald. Oberstadt complimented the conversation on the comprehensive Park Plan and encouraged any questions to be directed toward Dir. Schrader.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

19. Actions of the Transportation Commission meeting of May 11, 2017.

- 2. Approval of Financial Report (claims).**
- 5. Shelter installation project - award.**
- 6. Request from the Opportunities Development Center (previously Community Industries Corp. To provide side door service for clients at the Park Ridge facility.**
- 7. Request for Quote (RFQ) for lawn care equipment.**

Ald. Shorr **moved**, Ald. Jennings seconded, to approve the actions of the Transportation Commission meeting of May 11, 2017.

Ald. Shorr gave an update on the Joint Transit Agreement stating that cooperation was already taking place between the City and County on the agreement.

Ald. Kneebone added that the Transportation Department is entering a five-year plan and was receiving proposals.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

20. Actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners of May 8, 2017.

2. Department claims.

9. Creating an additional position – Equipment Operator, Stormwater.

Ald. Slowinski **moved**, Ald. Phillips seconded, to approve the actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners meeting on May 8, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

21. Actions of the Airport Commission meeting of May 8, 2017.

2. Department claims.

Ald. Phillips **moved**, Ald. Kneebone seconded, to approve the actions of the Airport Commission meeting of May 8, 2017.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

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

C/T Ladick made himself available for questions.

Ald. Johnson **moved**, Ald. Oberstadt seconded, to accept the report and place it on file.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

23. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.