

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Common Council

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mayor Andrew Halverson, presiding

PRESENT: Ald. Myers, Walther, Hanson, Wiza, Heart, Slowinski, Molski, Stroik, Brooks, Moore

Excused: Ald. Trzebiatowski

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Molepske, City Clerk Moe, Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice, Directors Gardner, Schrader, Halverson, Popoff; Police Chief Ruder, Fire Chief Zinda, Assessor Siebers, Kari Yenter, Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette), Meredith Thorn (Stevens Point Journal)

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25. Consideration of the Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.
26. Adjournment.

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

Council President Stroik congratulated Mayor and Mrs. Halverson on the birth of a son and also wished the Mayor a happy birthday. He noted that Ald. Trzebiatowski is excused from tonight's meeting as he is in the hospital with some medical concerns.

Council President Stroik read the following comments from Mayor Halverson: We have all been focused for several years now on moving forward with a grade separation at Country Club Drive and the Canadian National Railroad. Thankfully with the help of Congressman Dave Obey, we are for the first time in years, making progress on steps one through three, those being: design, engineering and price calculations for the construction of the underpass or overpass. As you know, which we have reported to you, we have met on many occasions with Congressman Obey's staff to discuss the topic, and I would like to thank Rene Daniels for all of her assistance in working with us and thankfully with the congressman's direct help, we have an allocation of \$475,000 for the engineering necessary to move forward with construction consideration. We will coordinate with the Railroad Commissioner, State DOT and CN to begin the process. There are over 2000 jobs within 1/2 mile of that crossing thousands of dollars are lost each year in lost productivity, not to mention simple stalling of north and south traffic and most importantly the crossing directly affects our ability to provide fast and safe response from our police and fire departments. I laid out this crossing as our most important long term major public works project, followed very closely by the sewer interceptor that will be constructed this year. We have set out to achieve this goal and thankfully with this allocation of funds from the federal government, I am proud to say we are several steps closer to making this a reality in the not too distant future. With the interceptor, the new water well, our numerous street construction projects, Fourth Avenue, and hopefully this grade separation: We are truly laying the groundwork for the City's future and our collective ability to grow over the next 50 years.

Council President Stroik stated that he is here this evening as the Council President and will be voting on the agenda items.

3. Consideration of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of February 16, 2009.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Walther seconded, approval of the regular Common Council minutes of February 16, 2009.

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.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street West, Whiting, WI:

Item # 5 - Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council

Item #16 - Traffic Ordinance

Item #23 - Board of Park Commissioners meeting of March 4, 2009

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481:

Item #5 - Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council

Item #16 - Traffic Ordinance

Item #20 - Resolution - Authorizing and Providing for the sale and issuance of \$3,650,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes

Item #22 - Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of March 9, 2009

Ald. Slowinski, District 6:

Item #5 - Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council

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

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street W., opposes the City's involvement with the County HH project. He believes the project should be completed by Portage County and AIG. Mr. Rocheleau stated that Plover pulled out of their involvement with the County on the County HH and County R project and he suggested that the City do the same.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, voiced her concerns on the removal of commercial and residential structures to clear areas for possible developments. She said these actions waste fossil fuels, materials and community history.

Ald. Slowinski said a city-wide clean up is planned for April 25 and April 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. He said he was contacted by Woodlands Church that they are willing to volunteer to help with the clean-up. The alderman said they are still looking for volunteers to lead groups and always welcome additional volunteers.

Ald. Slowinski asked where the City is at with the Eagle Plumbing building.

Director Gardner said there were a few phone calls but no proposals.

6. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Plan Commission meeting of March 2, 2009.

Ald. Moore moved, Ald. Hanson seconded, to accept the minutes and place them on file and affirm the actions of the Plan Commission with the amendment that the minutes reflect the following conversation; this is the second time the petitioner has come back to the Council with amendments and also the reason why we did not plan for the water hook-up to be in the spring rather than having to come back a second time.

Ald. Slowinski asked if the City has inspected the property on West Cornell before committing to buy it. He asked if the property is buildable.

Director Gardner said that Habitat for Humanity is interested in the property. He said before the building is torn down, it will be checked for asbestos. The Director stated there is high bedrock and high groundwater so chances are that Habitat will not build a basement.

Ald. Myers asked if Habitat for Humanity will pay all of the City's costs.

Director Gardner said one of the neighbors is interested in part of the property. He believes all the costs will be recovered with the sale of the land.

Ald. Molski asked about the delinquent taxes on the property.

Director Gardner said those will be recovered as well.

President Stroik added that he had made a few comments at the Plan Commission meeting regarding this being the second time the petitioner has come back to the Council with amendments and also the reason why we did not plan for the water hook-up to be in the spring rather than having to come back a second time. He would like this reflected in the minutes. Ald. Moore and Ald. Hanson agreed to make this part of their motion.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

7. Public Hearing - Conditional Use - 3101 Whiting Ave. - Request to Amend Conditional Use by Substituting a New Site Plan and Building Plan.

The public hearing was declared open by the Council President.

As no one wished to speak, the Council President declared the public hearing closed.

8. Consideration of Resolution on the above. Resolution

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Moore seconded, approval of the resolution on the conditional use at 3101 Whiting Avenue.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Brooks, Stroik, Molski, Slowinski, Heart, Wiza, Hanson, Walther, Myers.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Special Plan Commission meeting of March 9, 2009.

Ald. Moore moved, Ald. Heart seconded, to accept the minutes and approve the actions taken at the Special Plan Commission meeting of March 9, 2009.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

10. Public Hearing - Conditional Use - 2124 Rice St. - Request to Amend Conditional Use to Operate a Tavern. Resolution

The public hearing was declared open by the Council President.

Jason Glisczynski, 1920 Adams Street, is available for any questions.

As no one further wished to speak, the Council President declared the public hearing closed.

11. Consideration of Resolution on the above.

Ald. Myers moved, Ald. Walther seconded, approval of the conditional use at 2124 Rice Street to amend the conditional use to operate a tavern.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Myers, Walther, Hanson, Wiza, Heart, Slowinski, Molski, Stroik, Brooks, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

12. Consideration of the minutes and actions taken at the Public Protection Committee meeting of March 9, 2009.

Ald. Brooks moved, Ald. Slowinski seconded, approval of the minutes and actions taken at the Public Protection Committee meeting of March 9, 2009.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

13. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Board of Public Works meeting March 9, 2009.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Heart seconded, to approve the minutes and affirm the actions taken at the Board of Public Works meeting of March 9, 2009.

Ald. Wiza asked if the school was contacted to disseminate the new information on the proposed parking changes around McKinley School.

President Stroik said both principals were at the committee meetings and spoke in favor of the changes.

Chief Ruder said the Special School Safety Committee group involved members of the school district. He said Principal Blader was involved from McKinley School, and he related that he did contact neighbors around the school.

Ald. Wiza asked if the parents were notified. He asked if the school will hand out information to the students to take home to their parents about the parking changes.

Chief Ruder replied yes, usually it is included in the parent/teacher newsletter.

Ald. Molski said the changes will not take effect until the new signs are up.

Chief Ruder replied that is correct.

Ald. Myers said there are still parking problems around Washington School for parents who have special needs children.

Chief Ruder said this will be considered.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

14. Public Hearing - Fourth Avenue - Replacement of Clay Sanitary Sewer Laterals and/or Galvanized Service. Resolution

The public hearing was declared open by the Council President.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, asked if the width of the street will be changed and if new street lights will be installed. She suggested planting the boulevards with drought resistant trees and grass.

As no one further wished to speak, the Council President declared the public hearing closed.

15. Consideration of Final Resolution on the above.

Ald. Wiza moved, Ald. Brooks seconded, approval of the final resolution.

Ald. Wiza said the public hearing at St. Peter's Middle School went very well. He stated the options for payment of the assessments are cash, five years with interest or 10 years with interest and the property owner shall have 30 days to make the payment election. The alderman asked when the 30 days begins.

Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice replied it is 30 days from the date the notice is sent out. He said this is typically after the project is complete.

Director Popoff said no new street lights will be provided. He said the width of the road is planned for 24 feet. The Director said the 24' road provides for boulevards which are helpful for snow storage. He stated advertisement for the project will go out this week.

Ald. Wiza said Fourth Avenue will not be narrowed from Second Street past St. Peter's School. He noted that parking will be limited to the southside of the street.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Brooks, Stroik, Molski, Slowinski, Heart, Wiza, Hanson, Walther, Myers.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

16. Consideration of Traffic Ordinance Amendments - Sect. 9.05 RMC: Ordinance
1. Permit Parking in City Parking Lot #12 (Library Parking Lot).

2. Restrictive Parking around McKinley School and Creation of One-Way on Lloyd Street and Cleveland Avenue.
3. Restrictive Parking around Washington School and Stop signs on Robert St., Simonis St. and Lorraine St. at Wilshire Blvd.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street W., stated the Normington property would be an excellent parking lot for McKinley School and South Point Restaurant. He said this would remove staff parking on the street. Mr. Rocheleau suggested increasing the parking fines for violating the parking laws around the school.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, noted in the past, St. Paul's Church has offered their lot to the staff at Washington School and hopes that this continues.

Ald. Brooks moved, Ald. Moore seconded, approval of the Traffic Ordinance amendments.

Ald. Brooks believes this is phase I of potentially more phases.

Director Popoff replied this is phase I that is being implemented and it will be reviewed again if needed.

Ald. Myers stated St. Paul's Church still offers their lot to the teachers.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Myers, Walther, Hanson, Wiza, Heart, Slowinski, Molski, Stroik, Brooks, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

17. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Finance Committee meeting of March 9, 2009.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Hanson seconded, approval of minutes and actions taken at the Finance Committee meeting of March 9, 2009, with the minutes being amended to reflect that the tax increase or net savings of the borrowing which C/T Schlice had said we were saving over \$274,000. He said it is important to note that there may be a short-term tax increase regarding the telecommunications expenditures but the long-term will be a net tax savings.

President Stroik asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the tax increase or net savings of the borrowing which C/T Schlice had said we were saving over \$274,000. He said it is important to note that there may be a short-term tax increase regarding the telecommunications expenditures but the long-term there will be a net tax savings. Ald. Molski and Ald. Hanson agreed to add this as part of their motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Brooks, Stroik, Molski, Slowinski, Heart, Wiza, Hanson, Walther, Myers.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

18. Consideration of Resolution - Altering Municipal Budget for 2009. Resolution

Ald. Slowinski moved, Ald. Moore seconded, approval of the resolution altering the Municipal Budget for 2009.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Myers, Walther, Hanson, Wiza, Heart, Slowinski, Molski, Stroik, Brooks, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

19. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Special Finance Committee meeting of March 16, 2009.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Hanson seconded, approval of the minutes and actions taken at the Special Finance Committee meeting of March 16, 2009.

Ald. Wiza asked that the meeting minutes be reviewed.

Clerk Moe read the minutes of the Special Finance Committee meeting of March 16, 2009.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

20. Consideration of Resolution - Authorizing and Providing for the Sale and Issuance of \$3,650,000 (Taxable) General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2009A and All Related Details. Resolution

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, said the City needs to refrain from spending during these difficult economic times. She suggested some cost saving measures such as seal-coating and fixing potholes rather than replacing the streets.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Myers seconded, approval of the Consideration of Resolution - Authorizing and Providing for the Sale and Issuance of \$3,650,000 (Taxable) General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2009A and All Related Details.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Brooks, Stroik, Molski, Slowinski, Heart, Wiza, Hanson, Walther, Myers.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

21. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Transportation Commission meeting of March 5, 2009.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Heart seconded, approval of the minutes and affirm the actions taken at the Transportation Commission meeting of March 5, 2009.

Ald. Walther noted all of the aldermen received copies of the maps for the proposed night routes and if everything goes as planned, the final draft of the agreement is set for April.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

22. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Board of Water & Sewage Commissioners meeting of March 9, 2009.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, said this is not the time to use public dollars to expand. She said a new lift station is planned before the Industrial Park lift station rehab. Ms. Dugan said the City has water quality and quantity problems that need to be resolved.

Ald. Myers moved, Ald. Brooks seconded, approval of the minutes and actions taken at the Board of Water & Sewage Commissioners meeting of March 9, 2009.

Ald. Wiza asked if the laptops will be the same model or make as the Police Department's laptops.

Director Halverson stated the GIS Manager has been working on this. She does believe they are an upgraded version of the Police Department's laptops.

President Stroik asked Director Halverson to explain the need for the interceptor project.

Director Halverson said the need for the interceptor project was shown to them from a study performed in 2007 on their sewer system and also to accommodate expansion to Business Park II. She said the project would take the sewer main out to Lands End.

Ald. Slowinski said it is his understanding that after Travel Guard and Ministry, the current sewer will be at full capacity.

Director Halverson said that is correct.

President Stroik noted City staff is doing a fine job planning.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Myers, Walther, Hanson, Wiza, Heart, Slowinski, Molski, Stroik, Brooks, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

23. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting of March 4, 2009.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street W., feels the Mayor is holding up the dog park development because the Mayor talked about keeping part of the land for some development. He stated there are a lot of hoops to jump through in order to build on this land. Mr. Rocheleau does not want to solicit funds until they know how much land can be fenced for the dog park.

Ald. Wiza moved, Ald. Heart seconded, approval of the minutes and actions taken at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting of March 4, 2009.

President Stroik stated Mr. Schierl is available for comments.

Bill Schierl, 109 County Road E South, said planning for this park has been going on for some time. He said the park would be on the 20 acres south of Zenoff Park. Mr. Schierl is thrilled that this will be one of the first publically owned Sculpture Parks in the Midwest.

Ald. Slowinski is concerned about creating another park during these tough times.

Director Schrader said this project is similar to the Green Circle with a combination of private and public funds. He said the maintenance at this park will be minimal with minimal taxpayer money being used.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

24. Consideration of minutes and actions taken at the Police and Fire Commission meetings of March 3, 2009.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Myers seconded, to accept the minutes and actions taken at the Police and Fire Commission meeting of March 3, 2009.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

25. Consideration of the Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer. Report

Ald. Moore moved, Ald. Wiza seconded, to accept the Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer and place it on file.

Roll Call: Ayes all.
Nays none. Motion carried.

26. Adjournment.

Adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

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