

Meeting Minutes

Regular City Council Meeting

February 21, 2005, 7:00P.M.

Council Chambers, County-City Building

Mayor Gary W. Wescott, presiding Roll Call: Present: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore

Also Present: City Clerk Kranig, City Attorney Molepske, Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice, Directors Gardner, Schrader, Euclide, Halverson; Police Chief Morris, Fire Chief Barnes, Assessor Kuehn, Transit Manager Lemke, Personnel Specialist Jakusz, Administrative Assistant Ostrowski, Kari Yenter, Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette)

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2. Salute to the flag and Mayor's opening remarks.
3. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of January 17, 2005.
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. Plan Commission - Comprehensive Planning meeting of January 24, 2005.
6. Plan Commission meeting February 7, 2005.
7. Ordinance - amend Sign Ordinance - Commercial Zoning Identity Sign.
8. Resolution - amend Restrictive Covenant - Whitetail Trail Subdivision.
9. Special Plan Commission meeting of February 21, 2005.
10. Ordinance - amend Section 20.03 of Subdivision Control Ordinance - Definitions.
11. Public Protection Committee meeting of February 14, 2005.
12. Board of Public Works meeting of February 14, 2005.
13. Relocation Order - Tamarac Street.
  
14. Amended Relocation Order - SB51 (Southside Business District).
15. Finance Committee meeting of February 14, 2005.
16. Ordinance - Room tax increase.
17. Consideration of claim - Soper.
18. Special Finance Committee meeting of February 21, 2005.
19. Consideration of claims - Gaetz - Perzinski.
20. Personnel Committee meeting of February 14, 2005.
21. Charter Communications request for renewal of franchise agreement and accompanying resolution.
22. Board of Park Commissioners meeting of February 2, 2005.
23. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of February 14, 2005.
24. Reports: Police and Fire Commission meeting of February 15, 2005.  
Statutory monthly financial report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.  
Transportation Commission meeting of January 27, 2005.
25. Mayor's appointments - Board of Park Commissioners - Appoint Sue Hall. Arts Council - Appoint Nerissa Nelson.
26. Persons who wish to address the mayor and council for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.
27. Adjournment.  
2. Salute to the flag and Mayor's opening remarks.

Mayor Wescott noted the budget bill passed by the Assembly last week would have a dramatic impact on the City of Stevens Point. The proposal will create local levy limits that apply to cities, villages, towns, counties and technical colleges. So far the state government has exempted state government from these rules. For comparative purposes, in the last 5 years, the City of Stevens Point's tax levy increased a total of 9.4%, Portage County by almost 29% and the State of Wisconsin increased by almost 39%. Which unit of government needs controls?

3. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of January 17, 2005.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the regular Common Council minutes of January 17, 2005.

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.

Tom Barrett Item #16 - Ordinance - Room tax increase  
340 Division Street  
Stevens Point WI 54481

Kathy Schwarz Item #16 - Ordinance - Room tax increase  
2141 Main Street  
Stevens Point WI 54481

Reid Rocheleau Item #6 - Plan Commission meeting of 02-07-05  
Village of Whiting

Ald. Hans Walther Item #26 - Persons who wish to address Mayor and Council  
2nd District

5. Plan Commission - Comprehensive Planning meeting of January 24, 2005.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the Plan Commission - Comprehensive Planning minutes of January 24, 2005.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

6. Plan Commission meeting February 7, 2005.

Reid Rocheleau voiced his concerns on the sale of city-owned land located along the Southside Business District. Mr. Rocheleau suggested that the city not sell any property until the entire Southside Business project is completed.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the Plan Commission minutes of February 7, 2005.

Ald. Sowieja asked if the city-owned property will be used by the construction company for their equipment.

Mayor Wescott said yes, it will be used for staging.

Ald. Sowieja said his understanding, then, is no property will be sold until the project is complete.

Ald. Stroik asked if the sale of the property would have to go before the Plan Commission for further review.

Mayor Wescott said the City is starting to hear from individuals who are interested in negotiating the sale of the land. The City does not have the authority to enter into any discussion until the Council has authorized it.

Director Gardner noted the motion made at the Plan Commission meeting was to sell the property. The Plan Commissioners did not include in their motion to further review the sale of land.

Mayor Wescott stated the sale of the land would have to go before the Finance Committee.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

7. Ordinance - amend Sign Ordinance - Commercial Zoning Identity Sign.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for adoption of the ordinance.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Resolution - amend Restrictive Covenant - Whitetail Trail Subdivision.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Markham seconded, for adoption of the resolution.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Barber, Stroik, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Wiza, Markham, Walther, Sevenich.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Special Plan Commission meeting of February 21, 2005.

Mayor Wescott announced City Attorney Molepske and Stevens Point Housing Director Hamilton will take a few minutes to review item #1 of the Special Plan Commission meeting.

City Attorney Molepske said the reason the amendment is being proposed is because there is a 99 year lease of the property. An exemption was created in the ordinance to eliminate the need for the City or its political subdivisions from following current restrictions. This will allow the CDA to divide their building to accommodate their remodeling project.

Director Hamilton reviewed why the City is requesting the exemption to the ordinance. Hi-Rise Manor needs to be remodeled because the apartments are too small. Two apartments are being combined into one. To accommodate the residents, one floor would be remodeled at a time for half the building. This works out best for the residents but it is creating a problem administratively. A large number of the residents require a number of city services which they receive at the Hi-Rise Manor so moving them to other buildings would create a hardship. Once again to best accommodate the residents, the project will need to be completed in two phases.

Ald. Markham feels what is being proposed is a very reasonable approach. The alderperson is concerned with exempting the City from rules that would apply to a private business. She would like to craft this ordinance more narrowly so it would only apply to the Hi-Rise Manor.

City Attorney Molepske replied a sunset date could be set. Or the ordinance could be reworded that it would apply to only leases of buildings which are seven or more stories in height.

Ald. Sowieja is concerned with the idea of exempting government and not exempting any private enterprises.

City Attorney Molepske said section 5 of the ordinance could provide that the city or its political subdivisions shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (1) 2) of the ordinance.

Mayor Wescott would like the Council to agree on the language tonight so the project can get started.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the Special Plan Commission minutes of February 21, 2005.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

10. Ordinance - amend Section 20.03 of Subdivision Control Ordinance - Definitions.

Ald. Markham asked how long the project will take to complete both phases.

Director Hamilton answered it will take two years from this January.

Ald. Markham moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, to amend the ordinance as follows; 5) the city or its political subdivision shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (1) 2) until January 1, 2008.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Markham seconded, for adoption of the ordinance as amended.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Barber, Stroik, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Wiza, Markham, Walther, Sevenich.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

11. Public Protection Committee meeting of February 14, 2005.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Wiza seconded, for approval of the Public Protection Committee minutes of February 14, 2005.

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

12. Board of Public Works meeting of February 14, 2005.

Ald. Stroik moved, Ald. Walther seconded, for approval of the Board of Public Works minutes of February 14, 2005.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

13. Relocation Order - Tamarac Street.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the Relocation Order - Tamarac Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Barber, Stroik, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Wiza, Markham, Walther, Sevenich.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

14. Amended Relocation Order - SB51 (Southside Business District).

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Moore seconded, to approve the amended Relocation Order - SB51 (Southside Business District).

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

15. Finance Committee meeting of February 14, 2005.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Markham seconded, for approval of the Finance Committee minutes of February 14, 2005.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Barber, Stroik, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Wiza, Markham, Walther, Sevenich.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

16. Ordinance - Room tax increase.

Ald. Wiza moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for adoption of the ordinance.

Tom Barrett, 340 Division Street, explained the reason for the request. Mr. Barrett said this is an opportunity to return the City of Stevens Point as a primary location for hosting meetings and conventions in the State of Wisconsin.

Kathy Schwarz, 2141 Main Street, is a representative from the Stevens Point Area Innkeepers which is in full support of the request.

Ald. Wiza commended the Convention and Visitors Bureau for their hard work in promoting the City of Stevens Point.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

17. Consideration of claim - Soper.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Barr seconded, to deny the claim for Jeff Soper.

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

18. Special Finance Committee meeting of February 21, 2005.

Clerk Kranig read the minutes of the Special Finance Committee meeting of February 21, 2005.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Moore seconded, for approval of the Special Finance Committee minutes of February 21, 2005.

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

19. Consideration of claims - Gaetz - Perzinski.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, to deny the claims for Aaron Gaetz and Paul Perzinski.

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

20. Personnel Committee meeting of February 14, 2005.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the Personnel Committee minutes of February 14, 2005, with item #5 pulled for further discussion.

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

Ald. Molski stated the City still did not receive the information requested. No action will be taken on item #5.

21. Charter Communications request for renewal of franchise agreement and accompanying resolution.

Ald. Rackow said it was a long struggle to complete the franchise agreement in which the City is presently engaged. By law, since we are now about two years into the five year agreement, Charter Communications must send a notice that they would like to negotiate a new agreement.

Mayor Wescott said this is a formality required under the law. Charter Communications is required to notify the City if they wish to negotiate an agreement. Our response tonight is that the City is willing to negotiate.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Moore seconded, to approve the resolution with the following changes in the last sentence; directs its Mayor to review the City's related needs and interests.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Wiza, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Barber, Moore.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

22. Board of Park Commissioners meeting of February 2, 2005.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Wiza seconded, for approval of the Board of Park Commissioners minutes of February 2, 2005.

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

23. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of February 14, 2005.

Ald. Markham moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for approval of the Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners minutes of February 14, 2005.

Ald. Markham thanked the Water Department staff for talking with the major grocery stores, schools and businesses to help reduce the amount of BODs and suspended solids by about 12%.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Barber, Stroik, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Wiza, Markham, Walther, Sevenich.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

24. Police and Fire Commission meeting of February 15, 2005.

Statutory monthly financial report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.  
Transportation Commission meeting of January 27, 2005.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Markham seconded, to accept the reports and place them on file.

Ald. Walther said the UWSP U-pass program has been a tremendous success. The total ridership for the first semester was 16,906. The Student Government Association has approved the proposal from Transit for 2005/2006.

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

25. Mayor's appointments -  
Board of Park Commissioners - Appoint Sue Hall.  
Arts Council - Appoint Nerissa Nelson.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for confirmation of the Mayor's appointments.

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

26. Persons who wish to address the mayor and council for up to three (3) minutes on a non-agenda item.

Ald. Walther announced he will be hosting a 2nd District meeting on Monday, February 28, 2005, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at the Stevens Point Parks and Recreation Department.

27. Adjournment - 7:50 P.M.

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