

Meeting Minutes

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2004, 7:00 P.M.

Council Chambers, County-City Building

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

Excused: Ald. Markham.

Absent: Ald. Stroik.

Also Present: 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 Gebert, Kari Yenter, Kate Garsombke (Journal), Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette)

Index to these minutes:

2. Salute to the flag and Mayor's opening remarks.
 3. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of August 16, 2004.
 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. Recognition Award for Firefighter/Paramedic Rick Anderson.
 6. Presentation by Sue Wilcox - Executive Director of United Way of Portage County.
 7. Plan Commission meeting of September 7, 2004.
 8. Public hearing - request of ALLTEL Communications - UWSP Learning Resource Center, to construct a telecommunications tower as a conditional use.
 9. Resolution on the above.
 10. Public hearing - request of Fred's Towing, 801 Francis Street, to operate a car wrecking facility as a conditional use.
 11. Resolution on the above.
 12. Public hearing - request of Koch Materials Company, 741 Mason Street, to replace storage vessels as a conditional use.
 13. Resolution on the above.
 14. Public hearing - Zoning Ordinance amendment - change street setbacks along Interstate Highway 39.
 15. Ordinance on the above.
 16. Board of Public Works meeting of September 13, 2004.

 17. Public hearing - replacement of clay sanitary sewer laterals for all properties fronting both sides of Bliss Avenue from its intersection with Cypress Street to its intersection with Park Street.
 18. Final Resolution on the above.
 19. Public Protection Committee meeting of September 13, 2004.
 20. Ordinance amendment - number of cash registers in retail premises.
 21. Ordinance - Abandonment of Premises - Class "B" Combination Intoxicating Liquor license.
 22. Finance Committee meeting of September 13, 2004.
 23. Consideration of claim - Jacoboski.
 24. Resolution - authorize Mayor to sign Capital Assistance Contract with State of Wisconsin.
 25. Personnel Committee meeting of September 13, 2004.
 26. Joint Personnel/Finance/Police and Fire/Water and Sewage Commission meeting of August 24, 2004.
 27. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of September 8, 2004.
 28. Reports: Police and Fire Commission meeting of September 14, 2004.
- Statutory monthly financial report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.
Smongeski Health Fund meeting of September 10, 2004.
29. Mayor's appointments: Department of Water and Wastewater - Appoint Kim Halverson as the Director, 301 Bliss Avenue (Expires 12-31-05)
 30. Persons who wish to address the mayor and council for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda item.
 31. Adjournment.
 2. Salute to the flag and Mayor's opening remarks.

Mayor Wescott stated he had received a letter today informing the City of Stevens Point that Governor Doyle approved the state Department of Transportation's recommendation of the requested Transportation Enhancements project for fiscal year 2006-2007 funding for the Church Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Overpass.

Mayor Wescott announced the Federal Transit Administration presented the City of Stevens Point Transit operation with an innovative practices award. Mayor Wescott presented Transit Manager Lemke with the federal award.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of August 16, 2004.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the Regular Common Council minutes of August 16, 2004.

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 Item #30 - Persons who wish to address Mayor and Council
408 Cedar Street
Whiting, WI

Mike Phillips Item #20 - Ordinance amendment - number of cash
3225 Mary Street registers in retail premises
Stevens Point, WI

Dan Tikalsky Item #20 - Ordinance amendment - number of cash
Copp's Food Center registers in retail premises

Stevens Point, WI

5. Recognition Award for Firefighter/Paramedic Rick Anderson.

Mayor Wescott presented Firefighter/Paramedic Rick Anderson with a plaque for his extended and expert efforts to save the life of a young boy at Sunset Lake during his off-duty hours. The citizens of Stevens Point, Council members and Mayor express their sincere gratitude to Mr. Anderson.

Firefighter/Paramedic Rick Anderson thanked everyone who assisted to help save the life of the young boy. Mr. Anderson is very thankful to have been there that day to assist.

6. Presentation by Sue Wilcox - Executive Director of United Way of Portage County.

Sue Wilcox and Kathy Davies of the United Way of Portage County gave a brief presentation on the campaign drive for 2004.

7. Plan Commission meeting of September 7, 2004.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Moore seconded, for approval of the Plan Commission minutes of September 7, 2004.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

8. Public hearing - request of ALLTEL Communications - UWSP Learning Resource Center, to construct a telecommunications tower as a conditional use, was declared open by the Mayor.

Curt Sonnenberg, 2680 Risen Drive SE Suite E, Grand Rapids, is here on behalf of ALLTEL Communications to answer any questions. The new antennas would be located on the UWSP Learning Resource Center along with already existing antennas.

Larry Beck, 3416 Regent Street, has been working with ALLTEL. Three additional antennas would be housed on the building.

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

9. Resolution on the above.

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Public hearing - request of Fred's Towing, 801 Francis Street, to operate a car wrecking facility as a conditional use, was declared open by the Mayor.

Fred Pionek, owner of Fred's Towing, is available for any questions.

Dave Quimby, 2832 Water Street, would like to know how the neighbors were notified of the request to operate a car wrecking facility?

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, is concerned with the uses of the car wrecking facility at 801 Francis Street.

Mayor Wescott noted the agendas for city meetings are displayed on the Internet and Channel 3.

Director Gardner reviewed the process used to notify the neighbors.

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

11. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Rackow seconded, for adoption of the resolution including the conditions outlined by the Plan Commission, stacking of vehicles to be less than 6' in height and to include a sunset date of December 31, 2005.

Ald. Barber does not agree with the request for a car wrecking facility.

Ald. Rackow feels the car wrecking facility is a suitable use for this area.

Ald. Moore would like to know at what time in the morning can the owner start making loud noises.

Director Gardner said the general rule is after 6:00 A.M.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

12. Public hearing - request of Koch Materials Company, 741 Mason Street, to replace storage vessels as a conditional use, was declared open by the Mayor.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, voiced his concerns regarding traffic issues of large trucks in residential areas.

Ron Michaels, Plant Manager of Koch Materials, said Koch Materials consulted an engineer to review the possibilities of building a ramp or road to exit and enter the plant. Mr. Michaels said they are very committed to talking with the Plan Commission and city to look at all options. The issue of trucks on Water Street has been an issue for several years. Koch Materials is committed to safety not only in their plant but in the entire community. The primary reason for this request is to eliminate vessels that are very old.

John Garis, Project Engineer, 4111 East 37th Street N., Wichita, Kansas, said this project will not change the way the roads are being used. Koch Materials is committed to engage in discussions with the City to come to the best solution.

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

13. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for adoption of the resolution with the condition that Koch Materials develop an alternate means of truck access to the site and report back to the Plan Commission within one year of this approval.

Ald. Rackow likes the fact that the new tanks will improve the safety on the site. The new type of tanks will reduce the odor emission.

Ald. Barber agrees with replacing and improving the storage vessels. The alderman does not agree with using Park Street for trucks. Ald. Barber would like the possibility of running the trucks out the south end of the property and connecting directly to Highway HH.

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

14. Public hearing - Zoning Ordinance amendment - change street setbacks along Interstate Highway 39, was declared open by the Mayor.

Mayor Wescott noted there maybe a desire to send this item back to the Plan Commission based on communication from the Department of Transportation.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, is concerned with reducing setbacks.

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

15. Ordinance on the above.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Barr seconded, to refer the zoning ordinance amendment back to the Plan Commission for further review.

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

16. Board of Public Works meeting of September 13, 2004.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, for approval of the Board of Public Works minutes of September 13, 2004.

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

17. Public hearing - replacement of clay sanitary sewer laterals for all properties fronting both sides of Bliss Avenue from its intersection with Cypress Street to its intersection with Park Street, was declared open by the Mayor.

Mike Phillips, 3225 Mary Street, asked how the money is collected for the lateral improvements and have the property owners been notified?

C/T Schlice said properties with clay laterals are replaced and the cost is assessed to the property owners. The property owners on Bliss Avenue have already been notified.

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

18. Final Resolution on the above.

Ald. Molski. moved, Ald. Walther seconded, for adoption of the final resolution.

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

19. Public Protection Committee meeting of September 13, 2004.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Wiza seconded, for approval of the Public Protection Committee minutes of September 13, 2004.

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

20. Ordinance amendment - number of cash registers in retail premises.

Mike Phillips, 3225 Mary Street, is against having all the cash registers open for alcohol sales. Mr. Phillips suggested increasing the number of cash registers to five or six.

Dan Tikalsky, Store Manager of Copps Food Center, said his job is to make sure customers in the community receive proper service. The only change requested is that the limit on the number of cash registers be eliminated. At this time, only 1/5 of his registers can be used for sale of alcohol. Mr. Tikalsky noted the store only sells packaged products and alcohol is never consumed at the place of business. Copps Food Center offers an intense training program for their employees.

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

Ald. Rackow said the amendment to the ordinance is for the convenience of the customers. Only a few merchants benefit from the amendment because there are only a few that have more than three registers.

Ald. Sevenich said people do plan ahead to purchase items and customers should do the same when purchasing groceries and alcohol beverages. It is not hard to write a check for more than the amount of groceries or write a separate check for alcohol purchases.

Ald. Walther would like clarification on the need for licensing for the sale of alcohol.

City Attorney Molepske said the individual would either need a bartender license to check out or someone in the immediate area must be licensed to sell alcohol beverages.

Ald. Rackow noted the licensed individual must be in the immediate area, not over at the service desk.

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

Nays: Ald. Sevenich.

Ayes - 8. Nays - 1. Motion carried.

21. Ordinance - Abandonment of Premises - Class "B" Combination Intoxicating Liquor license.

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

Ald. Rackow said the City has a number of instances where an individual has a liquor license and is not using it.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

22. Finance Committee meeting of September 13, 2004.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the Finance Committee minutes of September 13, 2004.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

23. Consideration of claim - Jacoboski.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Moore seconded, to deny the claim for Andrea Jacoboski.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

24. Resolution - authorize Mayor to sign Capital Assistance Contract with State of Wisconsin.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Wiza seconded, for adoption of the resolution.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

25. Personnel Committee meeting of September 13, 2004.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, for approval of the Personnel Committee minutes of September 13, 2004.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

26. Joint Personnel/Finance/Police and Fire/Water and Sewage Commission meeting of August 24, 2004.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Barber seconded, for approval of the Joint Personnel/Finance/Police and Fire/Water and Sewage Commission minutes of August 24, 2004.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

27. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of September 8, 2004.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Barr seconded, for approval of the Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners minutes of September 8, 2004.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

28. Reports:

Police and Fire Commission meeting of September 14, 2004.

Statutory monthly financial report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.

Smongeski Health Fund meeting of September 10, 2004.

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

Mayor Wescott stressed the importance of the Smongeski Health Fund for the children of the City of Stevens Point.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

29. Mayor's appointments:

Department of Water and Wastewater-

Appoint Kim Halverson as the Director, 301 Bliss Avenue

(Expires 12-31-04)

Mayor Wescott noted Kim Halverson has successfully completed the probationary period as Director of Water and Wastewater. The current term expires December 31, 2004, when Kim will be eligible for appointment to a full two-year term.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Moore seconded, for confirmation of the Mayor's appointment.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

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

Reid Rocheleau voiced his concerns regarding open meeting laws.

31. Adjournment - 8:25 P.M.

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Bottom of Form