

Meeting Minutes

Regular Council Meeting

Council Chambers - County/City Building

January 20, 2003, 7:00P.M.

Mayor Gary W. Wescott, presiding Roll Call: Present: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Filipiak, Seiser, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis, Phillips, Moore

Also Present: City Attorney Molepske, City Clerk Zdroik, Directors Van Alstine, Gardner, Schrader; Police Chief Carpenter, Fire Chief Barnes, Assessor Kuehn, Transit Manager Lemke, Adm. Services Manager Halverson, Adm. Assistant Molepske, 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 December 16, 2002.
4. Persons who wish to address the mayor and council on specific agenda items.
5. Plan Commission meeting of January 6, 2003.
6. Special Public Protection Committee meeting on electronic amusement parlor license at 200 Division Street.
7. Public hearing - Request of Patrick & Pamela Blum, 200 Division Street, to operate an electronic amusement parlor, as a Conditional Use.
8. Recommendation of Public Protection Committee on electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.
9. Resolution providing for conditional use and license on electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.
10. Public hearing - request of Fishbone LLC, 925 Maria Drive, to construct a Multiple Family Development, as a Conditional Use.
11. Resolution on the above.
  
12. Resolution - exception to height restriction ordinance for a water tower at Bliss and Cypress Streets.
13. Public Protection Committee meeting of January 13, 2003.
14. Personnel Committee meeting of January 13, 2003.
15. Board of Public Works meeting of January 13, 2003.
16. Finance Committee meeting of January 13, 2003.
17. Board of Park Commissioners meeting of January 8, 2003.
18. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of January 13, 2003.
19. Reports:  
Comptroller-Treasurer's report - November 2002.  
Police and Fire Commission meeting of January 14, 2003.
20. Resolution submitted by Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point opposing war in Iraq.
21. Persons who wish to address the mayor and council for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda item.
22. Adjournment.

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

Mayor Wescott announced a Special Comprehensive Planning meeting will be held on January 29, 2003, at Sentry Insurance. The Mayor urged all alderpersons as well as members of the public to attend the meeting.

On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it is a day to focus on service to our community. Martin Luther King's dedication was to love and serve humanity.

Mayor Wescott wished Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice a speedy recovery after having eye surgery earlier today.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of December 16, 2002.  
Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for approval of the regular Common Council minutes of December 16, 2002.

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.

Pamela Blum Items #6, 7, 8 and 9 - Electronic Amusement Parlor  
909 Mason Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Tom Jakusz Item #13 - Public Protection Committee meeting of Jan. 13, 2003  
1058 Martin Island Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Amy Heart Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2132 McCulloch Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

John Brown Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2132 McCulloch Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Ray Stroik Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1019 Bukolt Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Bonnie Beverstock Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
425 Bukolt Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Will Stites Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
425 Bukolt Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Sally Topinka Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
732 W. River Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Tom Lindner Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1301 Sixth Avenue Apt. 5  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Sandy Risberg Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2029 Welsby Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Tera Tellock Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1909 Church Street Apt. B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Rebecca Zaban Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
633 Portage Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Philip Kauth Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
728 Isadore Street Apt. 5  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Deb Schumacher Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1160 E. N. Lake  
Hancock, WI

Tom Schumacher Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1160 E. N. Lake  
Hancock, WI

Julie Schneider Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2700 Peck Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Clara Cleve Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2461 River Bend Road  
Plover, WI 54467

Lonna Johnson Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
602 Sunrise Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Marilyn Cornwell Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2831 Welsby Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Matthew Morrissey Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1534 Illinois Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Rachel Tarpey Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2701 Fourth Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Peter Welch Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
1502 S. Adams Ave. #107  
Marshfield, WI

Josh Stolzenburg Item #21 - Persons who wish to address Mayor and Council  
2216 Division Street Apt. B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Christine Reynolds Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2216 Division Street Apt. B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Erick McGinley Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
2216A Division Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Kako Tanaka Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq

1534 Illinois Avenue Apt. B  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Florian Hahn Item #20 - Resolution opposing war in Iraq  
5. Plan Commission meeting of January 6, 2003.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Barr seconded, for approval of the Plan Commission minutes of January 6, 2003.

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

6. Special Public Protection Committee meeting on electronic amusement parlor license at 200 Division Street.

Chairman Phillips called the Special Public Protection Committee meeting to order.

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

Mayor Wescott reviewed the format required for the public hearing request for the electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.

7. Public hearing - Request of Patrick & Pamela Blum, 200 Division Street, to operate an electronic amusement parlor, as a Conditional Use, was declared open by the Mayor.

Pamela Blum, 909 Mason Street, feels the electronic amusement parlor will benefit the community. The parlor will provide a place for younger children to go as well as deter college aged students from drinking. The electronic amusement parlor will be a fun place for children to have birthday parties.

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

The meeting was returned to Chairman Phillips and the Public Protection Committee members.

8. Recommendation of Public Protection Committee on electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.

Chief Carpenter stated the Police Department conducted a review of the request to operate an electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street. The Chief from a stand point of the Police Department cannot give any reason to be either for or against this request. The Chief suggested giving the request a chance and review the progress at a later date.

Ald. Seiser is concerned if the children are loitering in the parking lot will this increase the chance of drug dealing. The alderperson asked if there was a problem with drugs when the Skill Mill was operating?

Chief Carpenter said there was a problem with the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The high loitering issue was the main concern.

Director Gardner stated the compatibility of the neighborhood was looked at. The neighborhood mainly consists of commercial businesses. The Plan Commission recommended approval of the request with a sunset date of December 31, 2004.

Ald. Seiser questioned the fact of youth using the facility not under the supervision of an adult. Is there an age limit or can elementary students come to the amusement parlor without being with an adult?

Pamela Blum said the intent is to hire adult staff to monitor the parlor as well as the parking lot.

Ald. Seiser asked how late will the electronic amusement parlor remain open?

Pamela Blum said she is still working on the hours of operation.

Mayor Wescott reminded the alderpersons that the City does have a curfew of 11:00 p.m. for children 16 and under.

Ald. Sevenich feels children need a place like this to go to. The alderperson likes the fact that a sunset date is in place for this request to help regulate and keep things under control.

Ald. Seiser said another concern is the children cutting through neighbors' yards to get to the electronic amusement parlor. Secondly, the alderperson is concerned the children will go to the amusement parlor without parental consent.

Ald. Filipiak moved, Ald. Seiser seconded, to recommend approval of the electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.

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

9. Resolution providing for conditional use and license on electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, for adoption of the resolution providing for conditional use and license on electronic amusement parlor at 200 Division Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Filipiak, Seiser, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis, Phillips, Moore.  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Public hearing - request of Fishbone LLC, 925 Maria Drive, to construct a Multiple Family Development, as a Conditional Use, was declared open by the Mayor.

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

11. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Walther seconded, for adoption of the resolution.

Ald. Sevenich noted the developer is fulfilling all the requirements to construct this apartment building.

Ald. Seiser is concerned with parking and walkway issues.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Phillips, Nealis, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Filipiak, Walther, Sevenich.

Nays: Ald. Seiser.

Ayes - 10. Nays - 1. Motion carried.

12. Resolution - exception to height restriction ordinance for a water tower at Bliss and Cypress Streets.

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

Ald. Nealis received a request that during construction of the water tower at Bliss and Cypress Streets, the City be sensitive to the environment.

Mayor Wescott said this was already discussed with Director Disher and the goal is to take out as few trees as possible.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Filipiak, Seiser, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis, Phillips, Moore.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

13. Public Protection Committee meeting of January 13, 2003.

Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Sevenich seconded, for approval of the Public Protection Committee minutes of January 13, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Filipiak, Seiser, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis, Phillips, Moore.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

14. Personnel Committee meeting of January 13, 2003.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for approval of the Personnel Committee minutes of January 13, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Phillips, Nealis, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Seiser, Filipiak, Walther, Sevenich.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

15. Board of Public Works meeting of January 13, 2003.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Nealis seconded, for approval of the Board of Public Works minutes of January 13, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Filipiak, Seiser, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis, Phillips, Moore.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

16. Finance Committee meeting of January 13, 2003.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the Finance Committee minutes of January 13, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

17. Board of Park Commissioners meeting of January 8, 2003.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, for approval of the Board of Park Commissioners minutes of January 8, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Phillips, Nealis, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Seiser, Filipiak, Walther, Sevenich.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

18. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of January 13, 2003.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Seiser seconded, for approval of the Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners minutes of January 13, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

19. Reports

Comptroller-Treasurer's report - November 2002.

Police and Fire Commission meeting of January 14, 2003.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Barr seconded, to accept the reports and place them on file.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

20. Resolution submitted by Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point opposing war in Iraq.

Bonnie Beverstock, 425 Bukolt Avenue, stated historically, the United States has worked hard to promote peace talks around the world. Now, our government is threatening war with Iraq but where are our ambassadors? What happened to diplomacy? Ms. Beverstock prefers negotiations and promoting international understanding. The resolution before you tonight is a statement in favor of diplomacy.

Will Stites, 425 Bukolt Avenue, encourages a vote in support of the resolution opposing war in Iraq. The City of Stevens Point would be affected

with a financial impact if City employees that are members of the Armed Forces Reserves would be called to active duty. Many members of our community including loved ones will also be called for duty.

Amy Heart, 2132 McCulloch Street, said there is a strong call for peace from the community of Stevens Point. Ms. Heart feels it is within the scope of power and responsibility to act on the resolution. An attack on Iraq will have a direct impact on the families of this community. Ms. Heart suggested the Council discuss, debate and vote on the resolution as your best guidance.

Sandy Risberg, 2029 Welsby Avenue, supports the resolution submitted by Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point opposing war in Iraq.

Rebecca Zaban, 633 Portage Street, asked the Council to support the resolution.

Tera Tellock, 1909 Church Street Apt. B, is in support of the anti-war resolution.

Phillip Kauth, 728 Isadore Street Apt. 5, also supports the resolution opposing war in Iraq.

Ray Stroik, 1019 Bukolt Avenue, said it feels as if it was yesterday, but 50 years ago he was in the midst of Korea for thirteen months. Mr. Stroik further discussed his time in Korea and voiced his concerns with the current situation with Iraq. Truly, we need to think globally and act locally.

Sally Topinka, 732 W. River Drive, encouraged the Council members to vote in favor of the resolution. We are humans before we became cities, councils, villages, states and countries. Ms. Topinka feels we have the responsibility to oppose unilateral aggression against other countries.

Father Tom Lindner, 1301 Sixth Avenue Apt. 5, had a university student express extreme frustration with what is transpiring in the world. The student expressed helplessness and fear not because of political or military reasons but from moral concerns and concerns of justice. The fears and concerns of slaughtering of innocent civilians, destruction and hatred of people that will linger for decades.

Deb Schumacher, 1160 E. N. Lake, Hancock, voiced her support of opposing war in Iraq.

Tom Schumacher, 1160 E. N. Lake, Hancock, feels the world-wide opinion is not in support of military actions.

Julie Schneider, 2700 Peck Street, urged the Council members to vote in favor of the resolution opposing war in Iraq.

Clara Cleve, 2461 River Bend Road, Plover, has worked with Veterans trying to put their lives back together. It does not make sense to work hard to save lives before they are born then kill them after they are born.

Lonna Johnson, 602 Sunrise Avenue, solemnly supports this resolution.

Marilyn Cornwell, 2831 Welsby Avenue, strongly supports the resolution opposing war in Iraq.

Matthew Morrissey, 1534 Illinois Avenue, supports the resolution opposing war in Iraq. Mr. Morrissey feels a lot of people are afraid to disagree with the President of the United States and higher powers of the government.

Rachel Tarpey, 2701 Fourth Avenue, supports the resolution and hopes the Council members support the safety and well-being of Stevens Point and communities around the world.

Peter Welch, 1502 S. Adams Avenue #107, Marshfield, had traveled to Iraq last May with a humanitarian group. Mr. Welch stated the people of Iraq are sick of war. It would be very dangerous to put United States soldiers in the midst of a sea of hostile people.

Christine Reynolds, 2216 Division Street Apt. B, supports and hopes the Council will consider the resolution opposing war in Iraq.

Erick McGinley, 2216A Division Street, said he was impressed with a rally held in Milwaukee this past weekend. Mr. McGinley expressed his concerns with the possibility of war with Iraq.

Kako Tanaka, 1534 Illinois Avenue Apt. B, is a foreign exchange student from Japan who also opposes war in Iraq.

Florian Hahn is an Austrian exchange student attending SPASH. Mr. Hahn urges the Council to vote in favor of the resolution.

Ald. Filipiak moved, Ald. Seiser seconded, to approve the resolution submitted by Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point opposing war in Iraq with one editorial change to the title of the resolution as read as follows "Resolution against pre-emptive unilateral military action in Iraq".

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Nealis seconded, to substitute the resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point with a revised resolution.

Ald. Rackow explained the resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point was a start. Other residents of Stevens Point offered input to Council members so the alderman drafted a resolution addressing most of the concerns from the residents of Stevens Point.

Ald. Filipiak is concerned Ald. Rackow's drafted resolution is too far of a stretch away from the original resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point.

City Attorney Molepske explained to the Council members the process for a motion to substitute.

Ald. Filipiak moved, Ald. Seiser seconded, to amend Ald. Rackow's resolution to include "Be It Further Resolved that the City of Stevens Point Common Council opposes pre-emptive unilateral military action in Iraq by the United States government".

Ald. Walther feels the United States has the responsibility to protect the citizens. With the threat of terrorism at an all time high, the United States must leave all options open. Secondly, the United States cannot continue to make idle threats or we will continue to lose credibility among our allies.

Ald. Barr said we owe the members of the armed forces our support and prayers.

Ald. Filipiak said there is only the deepest honor and respect to all those that serve in the armed forces. There is no condemnation of the military services. The United States government is now preparing to go to war against Iraq without the support of the United Nations, many allies and many citizens and groups around the world. The resolution before the Council tonight is not saying no to all military action in Iraq. It is saying yes to the United States gaining the support of our allies and the world community before any actions occur.

The following is the vote on Ald. Filipiak's amendment to Ald. Rackow's motion to substitute.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Filipiak, Seiser.

Nays: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis, Phillips, Moore.

Ayes - 2. Nays - 9. Motion defeated.

Ald. Filipiak does feel Ald. Rackow's drafted resolution includes the intended statement of the resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point.

Ald. Nealis supports Ald. Rackow's drafted resolution. The alderman feels it is clearly stated in the resolution that the United States government work with the United Nations Security Council to secure Iraq's compliance.

Ald. Sowieja feels Ald. Rackow's drafted resolution does not include accusatory language and supports our military personnel. The resolution encourages our government to act fairly.

Ald. Phillips said we are all aware of the consequences of war. All of us in a general sense oppose war, however, the alderman does not feel the City of Stevens Point Common Council is the proper forum for expressing one group's opposition to potential war. Ald. Phillips is not convinced this group represents the majority of the feelings of this community.

Ald. Seiser will vote in favor of the substitution resolution because the alderperson feels it is important that the Council make a statement about this very important issue. By Ald. Rackow drafting a substitution resolution, the alderperson feels he is trying to take over the resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point.

The following is the vote on Ald. Rackow's motion to substitute the resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point with a revised resolution.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Nealis, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sowieja, Seiser, Walther.

Nays: Ald. Phillips, Filipiak, Sevenich.

Ayes - 8. Nays - 3. Motion carried.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Barr seconded, to approve the substitute resolution.

Ald. Filipiak will only vote in favor of the resolution to make sure the City of Stevens Point does make a clear statement to United States government.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Walther, Filipiak, Seiser, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Nealis.

Nays: Ald. Sevenich, Sowieja, Phillips, Moore.

Ayes - 7. Nays - 4. Motion carried.

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

Josh Stolzenburg, 2216 Division Street Apt. B, thanked everyone for coming this evening. Mr. Stolzenburg voiced his disapproval of the procedure taken to substitute the resolution submitted by the Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point.

Ald. Walther announced he will hold a Second District meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department.

22. Adjournment - 8:45 P.M.

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