

Meeting Minutes

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2003, 7:00P.M.

City Council Chambers - County/City Building

Mayor Gary W. Wescott, presiding Roll Call: Present: Ald. Sevenich, Walther, Markham, Seiser, Sowiejka, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Phillips, Moore

Also Present: Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice, City Attorney Molepske, City Clerk Zdroik, Directors Gardner, Schrader, Disher, Euclide; Police Captain McCulley, Fire Chief Barnes, Transit Manager Lemke, Personnel Specialist Jakusz, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Laidlaw, 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 18, 2003.
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. Presentation to the Green Circle Committee from Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association.
6. Presentation on Transportation Development Plan - Mr. Ed Abrams of Abrams-Cherwony & Associates.
7. Plan Commission meetings of August 25, 2003 and September 2, 2003.
8. Public hearing - request of Centerpiece Guesthouse on Main, 1701 Main Street, to operate a bed and breakfast business, as a Conditional Use.
9. Resolution on the above.
10. Public hearing - request of Archie's Bar, 2317 Division Street, to operate a tavern, as a Conditional Use.
11. Resolution on the above.
12. Public hearing - amendment of the Zoning Ordinance which would classify 2241 Madison Street as "B-4" Commercial from "M-2" Heavy Industrial Zoning.
13. Ordinance on the above.
  
14. Resolution - vacating a portion of Doolittle Drive.
15. Public Protection Committee meeting of September 8, 2003.
16. Board of Public Works meeting of September 8, 2003.
17. Ordinance - Traffic: Create Stop Sign. 9.06(a) 618. On Sandy Lane at Golla Road (southeast corner).
18. Finance Committee meeting of September 8, 2003.
19. Personnel Committee meeting of September 8, 2003.
20. Board of Parks Commissioners meeting of September 3, 2003.
21. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of September 8, 2003.
22. Reports: Police and Fire Commission meeting of September 9, 2003.
- Comptroller-Treasurer's report - July 2003.
- Transportation Commission meeting of September 3, 2003.
23. Mayor's appointments.  
Portage County Groundwater Citizen Advisory Committee - no listed term  
Andrew Peterson 3001 Della Street  
Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners - 10-01-08  
Eugene Tubbs 1632 Wyatt Avenue
24. Persons who wish to address the mayor and council for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda item.
25. Adjournment.
2. Salute to the flag and Mayor's opening remarks.

Mayor Wescott updated the community on the clean up efforts at the Stevens Point airport. The Mayor stated approximately 90% of the fuel spillage is already accounted for due to the fast and professional response time.

Mayor Wescott clarified some inaccurate and untrue information on groundwater protection in the City of Stevens Point that was published in an open letter. The City of Stevens Point adopted a Wellhead/Groundwater Protection plan in 1987. While some surrounding municipalities have moved to reduce the number of prohibited uses in their well recharge or groundwater protection zones, the City of Stevens Point will not do anything to weaken the groundwater protection ordinance.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Regular Common Council meeting of August 18, 2003.

Ald. Walther moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the regular Common Council minutes of August 18, 2003.

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.

Larry Weiser Item #6 - Presentation on Transportation Development Plan  
616 Sunset Blvd.  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Jonathan Powell Item #15 - Public Protection Committee of Sept. 8, 2003  
116 Minnesota Ave. Apt. 3  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Jeff Kosloske Item #14 - Resolution vacating a portion of Doolittle Drive  
145 Wilshire Blvd. North  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

5. Presentation to the Green Circle Committee from Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association.

Roger Kist has been involved with the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association for over 35 years. Mr. Kist knows the City of Stevens Point, Portage County and the University have been leaders in the park and recreation movement for many years. The Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association has 1200 members in the state of Wisconsin and is affiliated with the National Parks and Recreation Association. Three places were nominated to receive the award in which the City of Stevens Point was the first place winner.

Mr. Kist presented Bev Laska with a plaque.

Bev Laska, on behalf of the Green Circle Board, accepted the plaque. Ms. Laska thanked everyone including the thousands of people who use the Green Circle.

6. Presentation on Transportation Development Plan - Mr. Ed Abrams of Abrams-Cherwony & Associates.

Ald. Walther, Chair of the Transportation Commission, said the Transportation Development study started in the fall of 2002. Tonight, Mr. Abrams will present a final draft and recommendations of the TDP study. Ald. Walther thanked everyone for their participation in the study. The alderman noted the work really begins tonight.

Mr. Ed Abrams of Abrams-Cherwony and Associates, summarized for the Council the outcome of the City of Stevens Point's Transportation Development study. Mr. Abrams noted a tremendous amount of input was received which made the study successful. A copy of the Transportation Development plan is available for your inspection at the Transit office.

Ald. Seiser asked why transit services to Plover will not be considered?

Mr. Abrams replied Plover Officials are not supportive of the services extending into Plover.

Ald. Walther once again thanked everyone who participated in the TDP. The alderman is very pleased with the results of the Transportation Development study.

Larry Weiser commented on the special efforts to work with the university. Mr. Weiser does not feel using the City's bus system to help alleviate the parking problems on campus is the highest of priorities.

7. Plan Commission meetings of August 25, 2003 and September 2, 2003.

Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for approval of the Plan Commission minutes of August 25, 2003 and September 2, 2003.

Roll Call: Ayes all.

Nays none. Motion carried.

8. Public hearing - request of Centerpiece Guesthouse on Main, 1701 Main Street, to operate a bed and breakfast business, as a Conditional Use, was declared open by the Mayor.

Anne Leshyk, 1701 Main Street, questioned the reasons for placing a conditional use with a sunset clause of December 31, 2005, for her property. Ms. Leshyk feels the only reason for the sunset clause is because the property is for sale. No other Bed and Breakfast businesses in the City have a condition with a sunset clause. Ms. Leshyk stated she has met all the criteria and should be granted full conditional use with no sunset clause.

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

9. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Sowieja moved, Ald. Seiser seconded, for adoption of the resolution with the amendment to remove the sunset clause of December 31, 2005.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Public hearing - request of Archie's Bar, 2317 Division Street, to operate a tavern, as a Conditional Use, was declared open by the Mayor.

Craig Hansen, 2317 Division Street, is in favor of the recommendation of this month's Plan Commission regarding his conditional use permit.

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

11. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Sowieja asked what was the violation of the original conditional use permit?

Director Gardner replied the violation is the parking lot was not paved when the conditional use permit was first issued until now.

Ald. Sowieja asked if the conditional use permit tonight will allow the land to remain unpaved?

Mayor Wescott replied that is correct. The state is in the process of acquiring the property so it does not pay to pave just to tear it up at a later date.

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

Ald. Molski feels the dirt area of Archie's parking lot should have granite or some type of hard surface.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

12. Public hearing - amendment of the Zoning Ordinance which would classify 2241 Madison Street as "B-4" Commercial from "M-2" Heavy Industrial Zoning, was declared open by the Mayor.

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

13. Ordinance on the above.

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

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

14. Resolution - vacating a portion of Doolittle Drive.

Jeff Kosloske would like the vacation of a portion of Doolittle Drive clarified.

Director Gardner explained the owner of the property had a CSM done and the CSM showed an error in the dedication of 5 feet for widening of Doolittle Drive. This vacation will correct the survey and eventually a new survey will be recorded.

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

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

15. Public Protection Committee meeting of September 8, 2003.

Jonathan Powell, 116 Minnesota Avenue, stated his application for a operator license was denied because of a conviction of selling alcohol to an underage person on July 23, 2003. Mr. Powell stated the violation was a poor judgment call on his part. Mr. Powell did not list the violation on the application for two reasons: 1) at the time the citation was issued, the officer classified it as a city ordinance violation and not a conviction, and 2) the officer said the citation would not affect his operator license.

Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the Public Protection Committee minutes of September 8, 2003, with item #4 pulled for further discussion.

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

Ald. Seiser said the standards for lighting in the City need to be reviewed. The alderperson would like to see the City take conservation measures to keep the lighting cost stable.

Ald. Seiser moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, to table the request to install street lights at the intersections of Glacier Drive, Nicolet Avenue, and Heffron Street until guidelines for lighting in the City are established.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Sowieja, Seiser, Markham, Walther.  
Nays: Ald. Phillips, Stroik, Molski, Rackow, Barr, Sevenich.  
Ayes - 5. Nays - 6. Motion defeated.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Molski seconded, to approve the request to install street lights at the intersections of Glacier Drive, Nicolet Avenue, and Heffron Street as presented.

Ald. Barr stated there are certain basic services that our citizens expect such as police protection, garbage removal, fire protection, etc. The citizens also have a right to expect safe and adequate lighting of the streets and intersections.

Ald. Markham strongly recommends the City move forward on developing some standards through the Engineering and Police Departments to determine where additional lighting is needed.

Mayor Wescott stated not every request for street lights are presented before the Council. The Council only sees the requests that have cleared the review of the Police and Engineering Departments. The City already has many internal review standards that are used by the Police and Engineering Departments when determining the placement of street lights.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Sevenich, Sowieja, Barr, Rackow, Molski, Stroik, Phillips.  
Nays: Ald. Walther, Markham, Seiser, Moore.  
Ayes - 7. Nays - 4. Motion carried.

16. Board of Public Works meeting of September 8, 2003.

Ald. Sevenich moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, for approval of the Board of Public Works minutes of September 8, 2003.

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

17. Ordinance - Traffic:

Create Stop Sign.

9.06(a) 618. On Sandy Lane at Golla Road (southeast corner).

Ald. Phillips moved, Ald. Sowieja seconded, for adoption of the traffic ordinance.

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

18. Finance Committee meeting of September 8, 2003.

Ald. Barr moved, Ald. Molski seconded, for approval of the Finance Committee minutes of September 8, 2003.

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

19. Personnel Committee meeting of September 8, 2003.

Ald. Rackow moved, Ald. Moore seconded, for approval of the Personnel Committee minutes of September 8, 2003.

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

20. Board of Parks Commissioners meeting of September 3, 2003.

Ald. Seiser moved, Ald. Phillips seconded, for approval of the Board of Parks Commissioners minutes of September 3, 2003.

Ald. Seiser reminded everyone the discussion on the comprehensive outdoor plan has begun.

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

21. Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners meeting of September 8, 2003.

Ald. Molski moved, Ald. Stroik seconded, for approval of the Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners minutes of September 8, 2003.

Ald. Seiser noted the Water Department is taking measures to conserve energy.

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

22. Reports:

Police and Fire Commission meeting of September 9, 2003.

Comptroller-Treasurer's report - July 2003.

Transportation Commission meeting of September 3, 2003.

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

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

23. Mayor's appointments.

Portage County Groundwater Citizen Advisory Committee - no listed term

Andrew Peterson 3001 Della Street

Board of Water and Sewage Commissioners - 10-01-08

Eugene Tubbs 1632 Wyatt Avenue

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

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

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

Ald. Seiser announced she will hold a Fourth District meeting and potluck dinner on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pfiffner Building.

25. Adjournment - 8:15 P.M.

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