

**City of Stevens Point
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Chambers
County-City Building**

**December 19, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

Roll Call: Present: Ald. Beveridge, Suomi, O'Meara, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Molski, R. Stroik, Brooks, Moore.

Ald. Trzebiatowski left the meeting at approximately 7:40 PM

Also

Present: Clerk Moe, Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice, City Attorney Molepske, Directors Schrader, Ostrowski, Lemke, Halverson, Assessor Siebers, Asst. Chief Skibba, Emergency Management Director McGinty, Officer Joe Johnson, Asst. to the Mayor Pazdernik, Dave Schleih-President, Police and Fire Commission, Matt Brown-Portage County Gazette, B.C. Kowalski-Stevens Point Journal

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

Mayor Halverson wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He stated the City of Stevens Point will be awarded a \$550,000 Community Development Block Grant that will be targeted towards housing rehabilitation as well as small improvements that would relate to water and sewer laterals. An RFP review committee will be formed that will consist of the Mayor, Comptroller, Director of Community Development and Alderperson Beveridge. They will review the proposals related to contract administration of the grant and will send out requests for proposals for administration of the grant. He said there is already an adopted citizen participation plan which is very specific as to how the public will engage during the public hearings. He thanked Director Ostrowski for his efforts obtaining the grant.

3. Consideration and possible action of the minutes of the Common Council meeting of November 21, and the Special Common Council meeting of November 21, 2011.

Ald. R. Stroik **moved**, seconded by Ald. Moore, to approve the minutes of the Common Council meeting of November 21, and the Special Common Council meeting of November 21, 2011.

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.

Henry Korger, Items 5 & 7
Mary Ann Laszewski, Items 7 & 8
Bob Woehr, Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17 & 30
Carl Rasmussen, Item 22
Ald. Slowinski, Item 5
Ald. Brooks, Item 5

the requirements of having someone speak only one time for all agenda items and instead would allow for five minutes on each agenda item at the committee or commission level. At Council, limitations would be three minutes.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second Street, felt the rationale for having time limits is generally a good idea, but dislikes the fact that people are cut off in midsentence. He recommended that a Council member make a motion at the cutoff time to allow an individual to continue speaking.

Henry Korger, 3200 Water Street, thanked City residents who regularly attend Council meetings and speak up on agenda items. He encouraged more discussion between Alderpersons during meetings before making final decisions.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, voiced her concerns about the time restrictions during Committee meetings and felt five minutes is not sufficient for addressing large issues at meetings. She asked that members keep the times as is.

Mayor Halverson said the Council, currently does not have the authority to suspend the rules to allow anyone to speak as long as they like. However, if an ordinance was in place within the standing rules that had a time limit within it, the Council would have that ability. He said the compromise with the five minute rule would allow for a more concise comment period at the committee level. The Council could then be streamlined, still allowing for comments for each agenda item, but limiting them to three minutes. Public hearings are required by law and would proceed exactly as they are now. He said if the Council wishes to proceed, the ordinance amendment could be presented in January with the time limits becoming effective in February, 2012.

Ald. O'Meara said he liked the overall outline of the compromise, but would like to see someone act as a spokesperson for multiple people on a complex agenda item.

Ald. R. Stroik recommended an addition to the ordinance where the Council has the authority to extend an individual's testimony beyond their time limit.

Ald. Slowinski said he was hesitant on putting limits on time and suggested five minutes across the board for all public input on agenda items.

Ald. Suomi likes the current format of no time limits at committee meetings which are overseen and guided by the discretion of the chair. She felt putting time constraints will discourage rather than encourage the public from discussing issues.

Ald. Wiza said he will be opposed to any law that puts a limit on any public input. He feels committee chairs are responsible for controlling the decorum and time of public input.

Ald. Trzebiatowski felt public input is important and citizens should be allowed to engage in meetings without time limits.

Ald. Brooks felt limits are appropriate and if further discussion is warranted, then it should be considered at that time.

Ald. Beveridge recognized both sides of the issue and felt a time limit would provide more precise comments and didn't see a need for any change.

8. Minutes and actions of the Plan Commission meeting of December 5, 2011.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second Street, said he believes in freedom of speech without time limits. He questioned why the Plan Commission approves their own minutes and no other committee does. He discussed item #8 on the Plan Commission agenda and felt public hearings should be held during Council. He strongly suggested that item #8 from the Plan Commission minutes be discussed by the Council.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, mirrored Mr. Woehr's comments and asked that public hearings remain at the Council level.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, seconded by Ald. Slowinski, to approve the minutes and actions of the Plan Commission minutes with #8 pulled for separate consideration.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
 Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ald. Wiza expressed concern of holding the public hearings at the Plan Commission rather than the full Council who is the ultimate deciding body.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, to deny holding public hearings at the Plan Commission meetings as opposed to the Common Council meetings.

Mayor Halverson said this item was for discussion only at the Plan Commission and Council meeting. If it were going to be approved, an ordinance amendment would be needed for the zoning code to allow for the public hearing to be specifically at the Plan Commission.

Ald. Wiza **withdrew** his motion. He said a motion was made at the Plan Commission meeting regarding this item which he thought was to approve public hearings at Plan Commission.

Mayor Halverson said it was an action by the Plan Commission, but it was an action item that carries no weight as there would have to be a specific ordinance amendment that the Council would have to approve in order to adopt the change.

Ald. Wiza clarified that no action was necessary on this particular item.

Mayor Halverson confirmed and encouraged comments and possible follow up with an ordinance amendment.

Ald. Beveridge felt Plan Commission meeting agendas should be published in the newspaper.

Mayor Halverson said the vote was an advisory vote from the Plan Commission.

Atty. Molepske said the minutes could be placed on file and the ordinance could be brought to the next meeting.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, seconded by Ald. M. Stroik, to place the minutes regarding #8 on file.

Ald. Slowinski asked why the Council cannot make a motion to deny the process of creating the ordinance amendment action so it could not be moved forward.

Mayor Halverson said it was his discretion as to whether or not he wanted to place the ordinance amendment on the next agenda.

Ald. Molski felt the public hearings should remain at Council meetings and was concerned that if public hearings are held at the Plan Commission, then the public would feel there was no reason to appear before the Council.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None.

9. Public Hearing – Conditional Use - Permit to dredge portions of property of the South Channel of the McDill Pond lake bed south of Heffron Street and near Della Street.

Mayor Halverson declared the public hearing open.

Krista Olson, 3317 Della St., representing the McDill Lake District, informed the Council that the application for dredging has reached completion and they have received a certificate of completion from the DNR. They have also completed the publication of public notice and notified the affected nearby residents on McDill.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second Street, said nowhere in the Resolution was anyone named to dredge. He said conditional permits generally have a name on them. He also pointed out a discrepancy in item #6 of the Plan Commission minutes in which the motion read "the pathway be returned to a walkway no wider than 8 feet," however, the Resolution reads, "The ingress/egress path off of Della Street shall be returned to a path that is not wider than eight (8) feet."

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

10. Resolution on the above.

Ald. Beveridge **moved**, seconded by Ald. Slowinski, to approve the Conditional Use – Permit to dredge portions of property of the South Channel of the McDill Pond lake bed south of Heffron Street and near Della Street.

Ald. Slowinski commended those involved in the project without requesting taxpayer money. He questioned the path that is to be returned when the project is completed and what the requirements will be to improve it.

Mayor Halverson said the walkway is deeded public access to McDill Pond that is owned by the City of Stevens Point.

Director Schrader clarified the path will receive road material and will be converted to a walking path.

Director Ostrowski said the main concern was to prevent it from becoming a vehicle path to McDill Pond.

Mayor Halverson said the Lake District holds the conditional use permit to fulfill the project.

18. Actions taken at the Special Finance Committee meeting of December 19, 2011.

Mayor Halverson stated no actions were taken as the City did not move forward with the contract with Clean Power. It will go before the Finance Committee in January.

19. 2012 Crossing Guard Contract with Clean Power.

No action taken.

20. Minutes and actions taken at the Personnel Committee meeting of December 12, 2011 and the minutes of the Special Personnel Committee meeting of November 21, 2011.

Ald. Molski moved, seconded by Ald. Moore, to approve the minutes and actions taken at the Personnel Committee meeting of December 12, 2011 and the minutes of the Special Personnel Committee meeting of November 21, 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Majority.
Nays: Ald. Wiza.
Abstained: Ald. Brooks. Motion carried.

21. Minutes and actions taken at the Public Protection Committee meeting of December 12, 2011.

Ald. R. Stroik moved, seconded by Ald. Wiza, to approve the minutes and actions taken at the Public Protection Committee meeting of December 12, 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

22. Minutes and actions taken at the Board of Public Works meeting of December 12, 2011.

Ald. O'Meara moved, seconded by Ald. Brooks, to approve the minutes and actions taken at the Board of Public Works meeting of December 12, 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Beveridge, Suomi, O'Meara, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Molski, R. Stroik, Brooks, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

23. Ordinance Amendment – Traffic – Related to the reconstruction of the Downtown Square; Change Reserve Street traffic directional between Main Street and Portage Street; No Left Turn for the YMCA parking lot driveway exit onto Division Street.

Ald. R. Stroik moved, seconded by Ald. Moore, to approve the Ordinance Amendment – Traffic – Related to the reconstruction of the Downtown Square; Change Reserve Street traffic directional between Main Street and Portage Street; No Left Turn for the YMCA parking lot driveway exit onto Division Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Brooks, R. Stroik, Molski, Slowinski, M. Stroik, Wiza, O'Meara, Suomi, Beveridge.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion carried.
Abstained: Ald. Brooks. Motion carried.

29. Minutes and actions taken at the Parks Commission meeting of December 7, 2011.

Ald. O'Meara **moved**, seconded by Ald. Slowinski, to approve the minutes and actions taken at the Parks Commission meeting of December 7, 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Beveridge, Suomi, O'Meara, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Molski, R. Stroik, Brooks, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

30. Minutes and actions taken at the Transportation Commission meetings of November 17, and December 8, 2011.

Ald. Slowinski **moved**, seconded by Ald. M. Stroik, to approve the minutes and actions taken at the Transportation Commission meetings of November 17, and December 8, 2011.

Mayor Halverson noted in the minutes that there may be the chance that bus service may not be provided to the Village of Park Ridge.

Director of Public Works Lemke stated there is a statutory requirement that mandates financial support be provided by municipalities served outside of the corporate limits of the city. He said the Village of Park Ridge recently voted to not fund a subsidy to continue bus service in Park Ridge. The Transit Commission then decided to continue Point Plus service that originates within the Stevens Point Transit service area between their homes and facilities in Park Ridge.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

31. Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.

Ald. Moore **moved**, seconded by Ald. Brooks, to approve the Statutory Monthly Financial Report of the Comptroller-Treasurer.

Roll Call: Ayes: All.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

32. Annexation Ordinance Amendment – Placing Ward 35 into Aldermanic District 8.

Ald. Beveridge **moved**, seconded by Ald. R. Stroik, to approve the Annexation Ordinance Amendment – Placing Ward 35 into Aldermanic District 8.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Brooks, R. Stroik, Molski, Slowinski, M. Stroik, Wiza, O'Meara, Suomi, Beveridge.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

