

Regular Council Meeting
April 7, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Jason Ekern.

Roll Call: Deb Marsolek, Cleo Skroch, Linda Longmore, Randy Symicek, Tim Hanson and Jason Ekern. 6 Present.

Others Present: Attorney Laverne Michalak, Deputy City Clerk Dawn Abrahamson, Sue Glenzinski (Trempealeau County Times), Elaine Conrad, Sheri Zilla, Alicia Goetting, Tiffany Bautch, David Galewski, Tami Keenan, Mary Pronschinske, Mary Koval, Joe Galewski, Wayne Palkowski, Rita Boland, Bill Baxa, Linda Baxa and Police Chief James Waniorek.

Deputy Clerk Dawn Abrahamson verified proof that public notice was given.

Approval of Agenda: Marsolek motioned to strike Agenda Item H (most of items for H), M & N, motioned to approve corrected agenda by Symicek, seconded by Hanson. Voice Vote. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion carried.

Minutes – March 3rd, March 11th, March 13th, and March 18th, 2025

Motion to approve with corrections by Marsolek, seconded by Longmore, Voice Vote. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion carried.

Public Comments

Dave Galewski- made comments on City attorney, Mayor, City Clerk and Bugle Lake.

Tiffany Bautch-asking for clarification on items.

Rita Boland- made comments on City Attorney.

Deb Marsolek- made comments on point of order.

Tim Hanson- made comments on Lessman & Wagner property and council will look into it.

Licenses and Permits

Bartender License:

Adrian Weaver- Motion to Approve-Hanson, seconded by Marsolek. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Justina Wrencher- Motion to Deny-Hanson, seconded by Skroch. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Lesly Gorostieta Gonzalez- Motion to Approve-Hanson, seconded by Longmore. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Miguel Sanchez Sanchez- Motion to Approve-Skroch, seconded by Symicek. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Rajinder Singh- Motion to Approve-Symicek, seconded by Marsolek. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Picnic License:

Friends of the Independence Public Library- Picnic License for May 4th, 2025- Motion to Approve Skroch, seconded by Symicek. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Knights of Columbus- Picnic License for March 28th, 2025- Motion to Approve retroactive-Skroch, seconded by Hanson. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Knights of Columbus-Picnic License for April 12th, 2025-Motion to Approve by Skroch, seconded by Symicek. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Building Permit:

Alicia Goetting-Building Permit- Motion to approve on contingent on modifications with the application-Marsolek, seconded by Hanson. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Old Business

Lake Dredge Update- Symicek advised they have gotten bids, but Russ will present them shortly.

Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update- Check if Fire Inspection done. Add for next council meeting.

Payment for Christmas Light Decorating- No bills to turn in. Marsolek thanked Wayne and motioned to pay Wayne \$500 for decorations and organization, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Sesquicentennial Celebration- Linda stated she knows who can take the lead. The question was asked about budget. Hanson advised checking tourism budget. Wayne advised local businesses are willing to help if letters are sent. Starting a committee with 3-5 members. The date is in question. Longmore will be the committee Liaison.

Library Update- Everything is coming along; bids will start early May. Not costing the city money on building. 40% of money for budget is from outside sources. They might have to look into zoning before building permits come in.

New Business

Friends of the City Hall- Report was sent out. Library and School has access anytime. Everyone else goes through the Baxa Office and they use best judgement. They are looking into replacing the curtains.

Appointment of Mayor- There were two applicants Dave Galewski and Tom Kloss. Skroch motion to appoint Tom Kloss, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried. Council thanked Dave for also putting his name in the hat.

Appointment of City Clerk- There have been 7 applicants, including one anonymous. LEP can meet this week to look over them and bring back at the reorganization meeting.

Park & Recreation- Symicek was approached after park and rec meeting wondering what is going on. Jason will pass information to the park & Recreation.

Four Seasons Volleyball Courts- Presented a map of Four Seasons. Gravel costs \$6,000-\$8,000. Sand will be reused. Hanson motion to move the volleyball courts, seconded by Skroch. Voice Vote. Ayes-5 Nays-1, Motion Carried.

Veteran's Memorial Park- Council was presented with a copy of the fence. Wayne advised they need to pay the 50% down for the company (Hayworth Fence Co, Inc) to start ordering supplies. Wayne presented the check to the council to pay for down payment. Marsolek motioned to approve to pay 50% down payment, seconded Symicek. Marsolek amended motion to pay once check and deed have gone through for the parcel, seconded by Symicek. Voice Vote. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Award Bid for Bugle Lake Sediment Pond Maintenance Project- Russ presented the bids. Overall, 13 prime bids and 4 bidders that bid for the project. Lowering of the pond hopefully by May 1st. Longmore motioned to go with low bidder, which is RLP Diversified, Inc, seconded by Skroch. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Block 1 Alley- Hanson motion to approve amended resolution, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

City Attorney- Letter was presented to the Council from Attorney Laverne Michalak about not seeking reappointment. He is willing to help with new Attorney. The appointment of the City Attorney will take place at the reorganization meeting. Council thank Atty Laverne for his years of service.

Ordinance Work Review- Atty Michalak advised 94 pages of Title 9; completed is 180pages of Title 5, 6, 7 and 9. He will meet will Ordinance Committee.

Compliance Assurance Plan for Recycling- Marsolek motioned to accept, seconded by Hanson. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Amend Recycling Ordinance- Marsolek motioned to accept amended ordinance, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

Employee Handbook-Police Department- Hanson motion to accept both changes, seconded by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

City Rent Lease Contracts on Farmland Properties- Table to Reorganization Meeting

Committee Reports:

Water & Sewer: N/A

Street Committee: Nothing. Frog Town-have materials.

Library-Kayla provided the update previous.

Law Enforcement/Personnel: Meeting to go over applicants for City Clerk.

Park-No meeting for 8 years

Correspondence: Tom Kloss has accepted the mayor position and will here at reorganization.

Approval of Invoices and Payments:

Motion to approve paying the bills by Hanson and second by Symicek, Roll Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion carried.

Future Agenda:

- Lake Dredge Update
- Historical Society/City Hall Basement Update
- Library Community Center
- Sesquicentennial Celebration
- Appointment of City Clerk
- DAM update
- Park & Recreation
- Markham Update

Future Meeting Dates:

LEP Meeting April 9th, 2025 at 4:30PM

Reorganization Meeting April 15th, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Ordinance Meeting April 16th, 2025 at 6 PM

Council Meeting May 5th, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Closed Session

Motioned by Hanson to go into closed session, second by Symicek. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion carried at 8:05 PM.

Motioned by Hanson to return to open session, second by Skroch. Voice Vote. Ayes-5 Nays-0, Motion carried at 8:22 PM.

Symicek motioned to approve actions taken in Closed Session, seconded by Marsolek. Voice Vote. Ayes-6 Nays-0, Motion Carried.

After having completed all matters before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Dawn Abrahamson, Deputy City Clerk