CITY OF STEVENS POINT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2024
7:00 PM

Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

1. Roll Call.

Present:
Ald. Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.

Others Present:
Mayor Wiza, Clerk Yenter, Chief Kussow, H/R Manager Frasch, Director Lemke, Director Kernosky, Attorney Beveridge, Director Kremer, C/T Ladick.

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

3. 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.

4. Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council for up to three (3) minutes regarding a non-agenda item.

Brook Brown, 1001 Brilowski Road Suite A, representing Express Employment Professionals spoke about an initiative that they are representing to eliminate Stevens Point student lunch debt. Brook directed the public to review Express Employment Professionals website to learn more or make a donation.

5. Presentation to the Mayor and Council: American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Princess Katelyn McDowell.

Mayor Wiza declared May 27, 2024 as American Legion Auxiliary Poppy day in the city of Stevens Point and urged citizens to participate in honoring the war dead as well as living veterans by wearing the red flower of Flanders fields on this day.

Poppy Princess Katelyn McDowell, spoke to the support, advocacy, and resources the American Legion Auxiliary offers to veterans. Katelyn also spoke to the symbolism and history of the Poppy and the connection to the poem In Flanders Field.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

6. Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of April 15, 2024 and Special Common Council Meeting of April 16, 2024.

b. Actions of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of May 7, 2024:

5. Approval of Minutes.
6. Confirmation of Bills.
7. Discussion, with possible action, to approve overlapping the number of Officers to 47 in anticipation of retirements and resignations. (In compliance with policy 5.04(1)(b).
- *The relative rank in positions of officers of the department shall be as numerically designated per the Chief of Police and shall consist of no more than 49 sworn personnel to include one Chief of Police.*)
8. Support to apply for BOTS (Bureau of Transportation Safety) grant.
10. Discussion, with possible action, to approve Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Bryanna Windsor and Madeline Avery to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the completion of their probation effective May 7, 2024, and May 15, 2024.

c. Actions of the Park Commission meeting of May 1, 2024:

2. Approval of April 3, 2024 meeting minutes.
3. Lease agreement with Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. for the Stevens Point Area Neighborhood Garden located at Cornell & West Whitney Avenue.
4. Boys and Girls Club landscaping extension and lease amendment for Goerke Park.
6. Director's Report.
7. Election of officers: President and Vice President of the Park Commission.

d. Minutes and Actions of the Plan Commission meeting of May 6, 2024:

2. Report of the April 1, 2024 meeting of the City Plan Commission.
7. Consideration of a hammerhead design for the Walker Street reconstruction project.
8. Consideration of road alterations for the segment of Prairie Street between Bliss Avenue and Mason Street, with retention of City right-of-way.
9. Consideration on the extension of public utilities for the development of the Forest Creek Subdivision.
10. Director's Report.

e. Actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners meeting of May 13, 2024:

2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.
6. City works upgrade.
8. Scope of services with Donohue & Associates for UV and clarifier engineering work.
9. Fine screen repair expenses.
10. Review and resolution on 2023 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report.
13. 2023 MS4 Annual Report.

f. Actions of the Airport Commission meeting of May 13, 2024:

2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.

g. Actions of the Transportation Commission of May 13, 2024:

2. Approval of the March 12, 2024 minutes.
3. Approval of the March 2024 and April 2024 Financial/Claims Reports.
4. Review of the proposed 2024-2026 transit collective bargaining agreement.

h. Minutes and Actions of the Personnel Committee meeting of May 13, 2024.

i. Minutes of the Special Board of Public Works of May 7, 2024 and Minutes and Actions of the Board of Public Works of May 13, 2024:
2. Discussion on ideas for possible actions to be taken on West River Drive.

j. Minutes and Actions of the Public Policy and General Government meeting of May 13, 2024:
2. License List.
3. Request to Hold Event/Street Closing.

k. Minutes and Actions of the Finance Committee meeting of May 13, 2024:
2. Designation of the official newspaper for City publications.
4. Approval of modification of the annual transfer amount from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund.
5. Request from the City of Stevens Point to sell the property at 4213 Simonis Street.
6. Awarding bid for the razing of 1200 Main Street.
7. Authorization of professional services for improvements in the East Park Commerce Center (EPCC).
8. Approval of Claims Paid.

l. Statutory Monthly Financial Report by Comptroller/Treasurer.

m. Mayoral Appointments:
- Nena Fisher to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Street Safety Commission for a 3-year term expiring on 04-30-2027.
-Supplemental Poll Workers.

Jackie Schimke, 440 West Trillium Court, spoke to consent agenda item 6i2-discussion on ideas for possible actions to be taken on West River Drive. She stated that her neighborhood would come together with solutions and advocated that the neighborhood and the city work together.

Ald. Morrow moved, Ald. Shuda seconded, to approve the consent agenda with j2 pulled for further discussion.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ald. Christianson moved, Ald. Birr seconded, to approve the licensing list as presented with the exception of #17 Icon, to be postponed until June.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Resolution - A request from Bailey Voigt, representing St. Peter Parish, for a sign variance to install a freestanding sign exceeding maximum height requirements on the property located at 800 Fourth Avenue (Parcel ID 281240829302701), consistent with Ch. 25.14.

Ald. Keymer moved, Ald. Kneebone seconded, to approve the request.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda,

Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Resolution - A request from the City of Stevens Point for a preliminary subdivision plat review of a planned subdivision on the property located at 5498 Golla Road (Parcel ID 281240826400500), consistent with Ch. 20.05(1).

Dianne Somers, 292 Maple Bluff Road, spoke to the Maple Bluff connection and voiced safety concerns about the blind spots, how narrow it is, as well as how much it is used by pedestrians. She is also concerned about the size of the lots and loss of trees.

Dale Bowe, 240 Ridgewood Drive, voiced concerns about the size of the lots.

Amy Anderson, 319 Maple Bluff Road, acknowledged that some changes had been made and shared appreciation. She also expressed concern about the speed of the project and asked the city to slow down to get the plan right for her neighborhood. Amy questioned if some potential home builds could be eliminated and instead add in walking paths or green space.

Nick Somers, 292 Maple Bluff Road, expressed concern regarding a drainage ditch and maintenance on the ditch as well as environmental impact.

Jim DeWeerd, 5364 Duncan Drive, expressed concern over the density of homes, the increase in traffic, and the safety issues that come with tight corners. Jim asked that the project be held until the neighborhood could create something, the land could be bought back or the plan could fit the blend of the neighborhood better.

Jan Way, 1203 Wilshire Drive,Town of Hull Supervisor, spoke to concerns regarding the drainage easement issue, the density of the parcels, and the proposed connection of Evelyn Court to Maple Bluff Road.

Ald. Morrow questioned if there was an offer to buy back the land.

Mayor Wiza clarified that there is not an offer to buy back the land.

Ald. Lang questioned if there was a proposal to buy back the land.

Director Kernosky clarified that there was an informal discussion between himself and Mr. Anderson. Director Kernosky expressed that if the city were to ever sell, the city would still want utilities to be put in due to growth projections.

Ald. Guthrie noted the need for additional housing in Stevens Point as well as this area being within walking and biking distance to key amenities.

Ald. Broderick spoke to trust that staff will continue to hear feedback and incorporate potential improvements as time goes on.

Ald. Shuda asked that as a government body to not rush the project but instead help to give answers to as many questions as possible.

Ald. Keymer acknowledged that due to public interest, the project has been changed for the better especially access to Forest Creek, pedestrian corridors, and the cost-effective option to join city water and sewer. Ald. Keyemer noted that there are existing questions and concerns regarding Evelyn Court design and safety.

Ald. Morrow stated that these are not low income housing lots and expressed his main concern was the number of zero lot line.

Ald. Kneebone said that some of the homes maybe within the price of affordable housing due to the different lot sizes.

Ald. Christianson reiterated many of the key points of thanking staff, finding creative solutions, and adding a walking path.

Ald. Lang also thanked the staff for answering multiple questions and reiterated that this is a preliminary plan and that there is still room for discussion.

Ald. Guthrie moved, Ald. Christianson seconded, to approve as written.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: Shuda. Motion carried.

9. A request from the City of Stevens Point to grant an electric underground easement to the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation for the property located at 601 Mason Street (Parcel ID 281230805200016).

Ald. Keymer moved, Ald. Shuda seconded, to approve.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Resolution - A request from the City of Stevens Point to enter into a joint resolution aspiring to eliminate roadway deaths and serious injuries.

Mayor Wiza noted that items 10 and 12 are the same resolution and therefore will be handled as one motion.

Ald. Morrow moved, Ald. Steinmetz seconded, to approve.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

11. Ratification to approve 2024-2026 collective bargaining agreement with Stevens Point City Central Transportation Employees, Local 309, AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

Ald. Lang moved, Ald. Kneebone seconded, to approve.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda,

Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

12. Resolution - A request from the City of Stevens Point for a commitment to eliminate roadway fatalities as part of the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant award.

This agenda Item was handled under agenda item 10.

13. Revision and renewal with the McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District regarding weed harvesting operations and equipment.

Attorney Beveridge discussed that he had made a small update to the agreement that pertains to liability insurance. The change was made from a $1.5 million coverage to instead state a coverage amount at least equal to what is indicated on the certificate of insurance.

Ald. Buse questioned how does this apply year after year.

Attorney Beveridge stated that the agreement does allow for a thirty-day notice of termination during any off season by either party.

Krista Olson, President of McDill Lake District, spoke about the assessment of a four hundred dollar tax that is required to help with the maintenance of McDill. Krista expressed concerns about the cost share of the maintenance of the equipment as well as concerns regarding an increase of taxes. Krista questioned if that section of the agreement could be reviewed and a cap be put on.

C/T Ladick stated that the city of StevensPoint has a fleet budget to assist with maintenance.

Ald. Buse moved, Ald. Birr seconded, to approve the contract as amended.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: Shuda, Kneebone. Motion carried.

14. Project #24-12 - To award the Well No. 12 Drilling Project to Municipal Well and Pump for an amount not to exceed $407,770.00.

Ald. Keymer moved, Ald. Lang seconded, to approve.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

15. Resolution – Establishing Alternate In-person Absentee Voting Location.

Ald. Kneebone moved, Ald. Steinmetz seconded, to approve.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

16. Disallowance of Claim-Lindsey Johnson-Struck in head with hockey puck at the Willett Arena.

Ald. Morrow moved, Ald. Broderick seconded, to disallow.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

17. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.