

**PLATTEVILLE COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Platteville was called to order by President Nickels at 7:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Denn, Barbara Daus, Barb Stockhausen, Dick Bonin, Ken Kilian, Eileen Nickels, and Patrice Steiner. Absent: None.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Stockhausen, second by Bonin to approve the consent calendar as follows: January 28, 2014 Council Minutes; Payment of Bills in the amount of \$1,370,978.20; January Financial Report; One-year Operator License to Karen T. Welsh; Two-year Operator License to Morgan J. Bachhuber, Jamie B. Palzkill, Danielle E. Rodenkirch, and Tarah L. Rote. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS, OBSERVATIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

REPORTS

- A. Committee Reports – Meeting reports were submitted by the Commission on Aging, Historic Preservation Committee, and Plan Commission. Ken Kilian extended an invitation from the Historic Preservation Committee to an Expo on March 7. They are working on putting together different signage. There will be a Historic Dinner on March 7 at the Episcopal Church with a silent auction at 5:30 p.m., meal at 6:00 p.m. and a presentation by Kent Scheuerell on the history of Platteville at 7:00 p.m. On March 8 there will be an Expo from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with presenters in City Hall and a presentation following that evening at the Badger Bar by the author of a book on Taverns in Wisconsin. More information will be forthcoming.
- B. Other Reports
 - 1. Airport Financial Report for January 2014
 - 2. City Attorney Itemized Statement
 - 3. Water/Sewer Revenue and Expenditures for January 2014
 - 4. Department Progress Reports - Kilian asked City Attorney McGraw if the Prevailing Wage issue was a continuing thing or will it get resolved? Attorney McGraw stated the issue has been in litigation and pending since 2008 and is in limbo. Kilian asked about the Kallenbach Rental Code Litigation. Attorney McGraw stated that he and City Manager Larry Bierke and Dave Pellatier had a phone conference today. The 15-month redemption period started January 15, 2013 and we are approaching the end of that period. The call today was to discuss what the City will do and what order. This information will be presented to the Council on April 8 with action following at the next Council meeting. They will obtain titles if not redeemed and get direction from Council on acquiring deeds for properties. Kilian asked about the item “transfer of cemetery lots” – was this routine or something else? McGraw stated it was routine and not significant. Kilian asked to see the 2003 truck that had an axle come off. Currently Kilian is planning a visit to the garage on Thursday afternoon.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- A. *Ordinance to Adopt WI Statutes Regarding Unlawful Use of Computerized Communication Systems and Harassment* – To account for advancements in technology, the Police Department would like to adopt the State Statutes so they can cite at a municipal level. Previously, the District Attorney would have to prosecute. Fines will be brought forward and there is a penalty provision in the statute. Action at next meeting.

- B. *Council Meeting Information Due Dates* – Steiner stated that giving staff an extra day to prepare packets would help City staff not feel so rushed and proposed that packets be delivered on Thursday afternoon rather than Wednesday afternoon. This would allow staff time to get additional information. She reads her packets Friday nights and over the weekend. Daus stated that if the Council receives packets on Thursday afternoons, with City Hall being closed on Fridays, they could be unable to get answers until Monday – one day before the meeting. Kilian agreed with Daus’ statement and stated that this might lead to transparency issues. Daus wondered if the packet could be delivered Thursday mornings. Bierke stated this would depend on how large the packets are due to photocopying. If the Council were receptive to receiving packets in electronic form, the time to prepare would be greatly reduced. Nickels stated that one more day to get the most information would be helpful. Kilian suggested setting the agenda the day after the Council meeting for the next one. Nickels stated the consensus seems to be for Thursday delivery.
- C. *City Attorney Contract* – Every two years the contract is reviewed. It has been six years since there has been an increase in the City Attorney’s rates. Kilian asked what the \$25 increase was based on. McGraw stated that he has been charging \$150 to other clients for the past six to eight years and wants to charge the same to the City. Bonin stated this was reasonable. Kilian asked about the \$350 charge for travel in January and about mileage reimbursement. McGraw stated he charges \$350 for travel to and from Lancaster and since the route is the same, the fee doesn’t change. His contract states he can charge for mileage, but he has never charged it. Action at next meeting.

WORK SESSION

Bike Trail Update from the PCA – Mike Penn, 220 Elm Street presented for the PCA. Eileen Nickels, Angie Wright, Cindy Tang, and Gene Weber went to the DNR in Madison to seek grant funds for trail improvements. The DNR encouraged delay of the \$100k for the bridge project and to put those funds for the paving and lighting from behind Menard’s through the City to UWP Markee Drive. A proposal is being prepared for submission to the DNR with total project costs to be approximately \$1.2 million. The DNR requires a 50% match (\$600k). The existing \$100k will be used with the additional \$500k being solicited from other sources including: grant funding from corporations and foundations, UWP and the UWP Foundation, in-kind services from UWP students, local businesses, and the City. They believe they can raise \$450k and would request \$150k from the City toward the \$1.2 million trail improvement project. The grant proposal (by Angie Wright) must be submitted by the City by May 1, 2014. Notification of the award would come in late summer or September. Work would start in 2015. (The other three projects currently slated would have to be delayed as well as those funds will be used for the lighting and paving if approved.)

Denn asked if this would be a multi-use trail that would allow snowmobiles and/or ATVs. Public Works Director Howard Crofoot stated that due to major sections of the trail to Belmont being on DOT land, the trail is for bikes and pedestrians only – no motorized vehicles. There are regulations regarding those vehicles within the City limits. Amy Seeboth, 455 Lutheran Street (PCA Board) stated they are in talks regarding usage of snowmobiles on the trails and who would maintain. And that the question remains unanswered.

There is an option to use Park Impact Fees because it’s an addition to existing bike trail quality. Park impact fees are a \$380 fee for each new dwelling (1 apartment = 1 dwelling; 1 single-family home = 1 dwelling).

Nickels stated that the trail improvement would be a benefit to Platteville and tourism. The location of the trails behind restaurants could help their businesses. Safety would be increased with lighting. Now is

a good time to match funds. This will be on for Information and Discussion at the next Council meeting with action at the March 4 meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Daus, second by Denn to adjourn to closed session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) – Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – City Manager Employment Contract – and come back into open session for possible action. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote.

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION

City Manager Employment Contract – No change to City Manager contract signed in July of 2013. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Steiner, second by Stockhausen to adjourn. Motion carried on a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Leighty
City Manager Administrative Assistant