

PLATTEVILLE COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JUNE 24, 2014

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Platteville was called to order by Council President Eileen Nickels at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dick Bonin, Barbara Daus, Mike Denn, Ken Kilian, Council President Eileen Nickels, Amy Seeboth, and Barb Stockhausen. Absent: None.

President Nickels, on behalf of the Council, expressed condolences to the people injured and those who lost their homes and/or businesses in the June 16 tornado. Nickels proceeded to recognize City staff for the amazing response from all the different departments and those behind the scenes.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- A. *Update on Tornado Recovery Effort* – City Manager Larry Bierke stated that there was a continuing outpouring of support, not only from employees, but emergency staff responders and volunteers. Immediate concerns have been addressed, everyone is now safe, properties secured, and are now well into the recovery stages. Grant County Emergency Management is now handling casework on an individual basis for families and individuals affected by the tornado, a caseworker has been assigned and will be available in Platteville for about a month. Assistance ranges from financial, to counseling, to helping to find a place to live – contact number is (608) 723-7171. Reported that the City is applying for State emergency relief funding which will help cover approximately 70% to help cover the additional costs incurred from the tornados in the City. Pointed out that a lot of help has been received from the WI DNR and Faherty’s garbage disposal and noted that there’s still a lot of work to do.

The EMS Dept received 20 calls in total, some directly resulting from the tornado and others indirectly, with assistance received from Lancaster, Cuba City, Hazel Green, Potosi, Dickeyville, Livingston, and Jamestown first responders.

Fire Chief Ryan Simmons commented on the remarkable response from the surrounding communities – that when they made the request for additional help, within an hour’s time there was help received from every emergency department. Noted that’s what makes it great to live in this area. Stated that the Fire Department was pretty well back to normal operations at this time.

Public Works Director Howard Crofoot echoed the previous statements and updated that the debris is out of the roadways and cleanup is continuing, but that it will pretty much take up the entire summer. The DNR has come in with chainsaws and cleanup crews, brush pickup is ongoing, and they are working with suppliers to get the damaged signals working at the intersection of Bus Hwy 151 and Hwy 80/81.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Kopp seconded the community response and stated that the Chamber building served as a cooling center with food, coffee, and water for the volunteers who worked one short block away. They also compiled a list of business and individuals that called and offered equipment or services for anyone who needs anything. She reached out to the Department of Tourism to let them know that Platteville is open for business. Building Platteville is working with the City and Chamber and organized the “Platteville Tornado Relief Fund” set up at Mound City Bank, PO Box 119, Platteville, for monetary donations for those affected. Donation canisters are available at all financial institutions in Platteville. She gave a special shoutout to Steve Braun, Director of Grant County Emergency Management for doing a phenomenal job.

This year's Party in the Park theme for Thursday, July 24th will be a community salute and thank you for all the volunteers that helped with the tornado. Since it was impossible to have the names of all the volunteers that helped, they are asking that the volunteers please call the Chamber at 348-8888 so a list can be compiled to recognize everyone.

UW-Platteville Liaison Christina Curras thanked all the agencies that provided support and was so grateful for their staff that got the kids out safely with no injuries. They received a lot of help from UW-Madison, Southwest Tech, and all the colleges in the area. They are now in the rebuilding phase. All of the buildings have been determined to be repairable, including the stadium. Plan to be ready in time for the fall semester and are releasing updates daily on their webpage at www.uwplatt.edu.

Police Chief Doug McKinley also thanked Steve Braun and the Grant County Emergency Management for coordinating efforts and shepherding the City through this tornado. Rewarding to see how their disaster preparedness came into play and was very impressed with the residents, volunteers, and emergency services responses. Pleased to see how people felt that Nixle was a valuable resource and encouraged residents to sign up for that free service. Concluded that overall it was a bad time for the history of the City, but feel that we will come through this and be a better community because of it.

In response to a question why the tornado sirens didn't go off that night, Bierke explained that tornado sirens will go off when there is a tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service. That evening only a watch was issued.

- B. *Overview of Fiber to the Premises in Platteville* – Bob Brown from CenturyLink provided the Council an overview of a new service – Prism – that CenturyLink will be offering to the City of Platteville next summer. Prism consists of IPTV services over managed IP networks, broadcast/multicast television, all forms of on-demand, and converged IP services. Features include Whole Home DVR, Wireless STB, Prism on the Go (iPhone, iPad, iTouch, and Android phone and tablet), Videos on Demand, Interactive Self Help, VOD Storefront, and Games.
- C. *2013 Audited Financial Statements* – Johnson Block & Company INC – Al Brey, Partner with Johnson Block & Company, provided a detailed audit overview to the Council. 2013 Financial Highlights included an increase in the overall Fund Balance of \$1,328,672, General Fund increased \$605,008, Capital Projects decreased \$938,082, TIF#6 increased \$587,314, TIF#4 increased \$1,158,904, and the Water and Sewer Utility increased \$673,308. State aid for municipal services was reduced by \$237,000, property taxes (excluding TIFs) increased (4.1% over a 4 year time frame), City's valuation decreased (approx. 2% over a 4 year period), decreased shared revenue, and long term obligations increased \$4,193,181 for the City and decreased \$565,820 for Water and Sewer Utility. General obligation debt limitation totaled \$27,473,995 and debt subject to limitation totaled \$18,013,487. The City had 34% of its debt capacity remaining at December 31, 2013.

City Manager Larry Bierke asked Mr. Brey, that given his review, what should the City focus on in the next budget session? Mr. Brey responded 1) maintain the general fund balance because of the City's heavy reliance on the State funding; 2) look at utility rates every year; and 3) look at the budget categories that are assigned to specific purposes to make sure they are relevant or needed each year. Daus asked if in future years, comparative data could be provided as to how the City of Platteville property taxes compare to other communities of the same size. Mr. Brey responded that the data is available from the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance and was provided to a couple Council members and staff who met regarding the audit prior to the meeting. President Nickels asked the City Manager to provide the Council copies of that information.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Daus, second by Bonin to approve the 6/10/14 Council Minutes; Payment of Bills in the amount of \$340,561.91; One-Year Operator License to Carrie F Funk, Laura C Heinz, Brigit M Kyle, Jacquelyn E Olson, Joshua A Riley, Emily K Roamer, and Lisa K Stark; Two Year Operator License to Robert A Bailey, Michele D Bartels, Savanah S Boe, Bradley D Butteris, Jessica T Fuschino, Patricia C Gerber, David K Hofer, Isaiah E Isabell, Brittany M Koberstein, Brian F Miesen, Emily R Olson, Francis A Schoenfeld, Tyler R Sime, Teri L Spink, Adam J Teal, Allison M Wells, and Michael Yang; and Ordinance 14-08 Amending Section 22.0514(D)(2)(a)(8) Overlay District Creation Petition Application Fee. 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 Airport Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Public Library Board, and Water & Sewer Commission.
- B. Other Reports
 - 1. Building Inspector Report
 - 2. Department Progress Reports – Written progress reports of department operations and activities were submitted by the Director of Administration, City Attorney, City Manager, Community Planning & Development, EMS, Police, Public Library, Public Works, Recreation, and Senior Center.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. *IT Budget Amendment* – City Manager Larry Bierke explained that in January, the City contracted with CompuNET to do technology improvements knowing at that time the contract was going to be more than what was budgeted. Request is to transfer \$20,000 from the Communications budget to the IT budget (\$5,075 to update seven Windows XP computers, \$7,000 for a domain server, and \$7,500 towards the IT contract). Motion by Stockhausen, second by Bonin to authorize a transfer of \$20,000 from the Communications Budget to the Information Technology Budget as presented. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- A. *Ordinance Amending Section 3.12(B)(2) City Plan Commission* – Proposed ordinance clarifies that the election of the Council member to serve on the Plan Commission takes place at the Organizational meeting in April of each year. Action at next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Bonin, second by Stockhausen to go into closed session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Possible Land Acquisition – and reconvene to open session to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Denn, second by Daus to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Martin, City Clerk