

PLATTEVILLE COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 23, 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, Mike Denn, Ken Kilian, Council President Eileen Nickels, Amy Seeboth-Wilson, and Barbara Stockhausen. Excused: Barbara Daus.

PUBLIC HEARING

*Changes in Public Transportation – Increase in Shared Ride Taxi Hours on Sunday and Shared Ride Taxi-UW-Platteville Shuttle Bus Study* – Council member Seeboth-Wilson excused herself from discussion and action on this agenda item due to her position as the Sustainability Coordinator at UW-Platteville. President Nickels called the public hearing to order. Director of Public Works Howard Crofoot reviewed that Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) completed a study regarding the feasibility of combining the current Shared Ride Taxi service with the UW-Platteville Shuttle Bus service. One of the results of the study was the request to increase shared ride taxi hours of operation on Sunday (currently 7 AM – 1 PM) to allow riders to attend and support community events, shop at local businesses and restaurants, to get to and from work, and to visit family and friends. Extending Sunday hours until 8 PM accommodates the dinner hour and addresses a variety of needs of all citizens. This request was supported in an August 24, 2014 email to the Council and by a petition with over 60 signatures presented to the Council in March 2014. Crofoot noted that the local office manager for the shared ride taxi service mentioned that Thursday night rides between 8 PM and 3 AM are few and that one option for paying for the extended hours could be to reduce hours on Thursday. Crofoot stated that this will increase the local tax share of subsidy payments by less than \$2,000 per year. Staff recommends to budget for an increase in service hours on Sundays in 2015.

Crofoot then went on to explain that the City provides \$40,839 in local tax dollars to support the Shared Ride Taxi system. Fares are estimated at \$75,000 for the year and federal/state grants provide \$163,925 for a total budget of \$279,764. The UW-Platteville Shuttle Bus system is not eligible for federal/state funding because it is not sponsored by a municipality and is 100% funded by student fees for a total budget of \$150,000. The results of the feasibility study show that if the funding formula stays the same, by combining the two systems and keeping fares, City, and UW contributions at the same level, the Federal/State grant could be as much as \$382,000 – for a total budget of approximately \$654,000. This “no increase” scenario would allow expansion of hours and routes for both the shared ride taxi and the shuttle to serve the University and City as a whole. Conversely using the same funding formula, by combining the two systems and keeping the budget and service hours the same as they are now, SWWRPC can project a maximum savings of about 48% of local funding by the City and University. Crofoot noted that UW-Whitewater, UW-Stout, and UW-Stevens Point have similar combined shuttle bus and taxi systems. If this were to be approved, the next step would be to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the University, protection to make sure the City does not fund for the University Shuttle Bus – that the additional cost of the Shuttle Bus is provided by the University’s local match and federal/state dollars. Staff recommends to accept the SWWRPC recommendation and direct Staff to work with UW-Platteville and WI DOT to combine the Shared Ride Taxi and UW-Platteville Shuttle Bus into a combined public transit system.

Public statements in favor included Rich Christensen of 10 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street who spoke in favor of the increase of shared ride taxi service hours on Sunday and Ryan Pettinger of 880 Union Street, who along with SUFAC and Student Senate, spoke in favor of a combined public transit system. No public statements against.

Public statements in general included Rich Christensen who believes the SWWRPC and University are rushing the City and doesn't believe the Council has enough information to make an informed decision.

Council discussion included concern that an increase in shuttle bus routes would take away from the current shared ride taxi service, what happens if subsidies go away. Crofoot noted that the whole idea was offer additional choices to all citizens and to get federal/tax money to help subsidize those transportation choices. Any shortcoming would be shared proportionately by the City and University addressed in the negotiated agreement. Other discussion included the savings and convenience of buying a pass, providing more options during cold weather, one year trial basis, and implementation timetable.

Motion by Stockhausen, second by Kilian to close the public hearing. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote. Motion by Denn, second by Kilian to increase the service hours on Sundays to 8 PM for the Shared Ride Taxi service beginning January 1, 2015. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote. Motion by Stockhausen, second by Kilian to accept the SWWRPC recommendation and direct Staff to work with UW-Platteville and WI DOT to combine the Shared Ride Taxi and UW-Platteville Shuttle Bus into a combined public transit system and review at the end of one year. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

*2015 Budget Presentation by City Manager* – City Manager Larry Bierke presented the 2015 Proposed Executive Budget and provided an overview of key points and changes included. The City is experiencing substantial growth – the City's equalized value went up close to 67 million dollars in 2014, totaling \$607,223,200, with \$26,044,000 of that being new construction. This will add \$181,024 of additional tax revenue without increasing tax rates. The 2015 operating budget increased 2.70% from last year. Key changes include a 1.5% wage increase for all permanent staff (20 hrs+), two new staff positions (one p/t senior center attendant and one p/t building inspector), reduction of one department head position as of June 1 due to retirement, higher IT costs, and a 5% projected increase in health insurance costs. Debt service will be at 59.15% of state borrowing capacity and 84.50% of the borrowing capacity per the City Financial Management Plan. Bierke stated that the Council approved a \$2,454,400 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) on July 23 and proposed to reduce the CIP by \$52,000 (election voting machines), increase \$178,127 to use Library funds for the Library Block Project, increase \$1,285,384 for the PCA trail, and increase \$30,000 to use the rest of the Graham Funds for improvements to the Auditorium. As a result of the proposed changes, the City will need to borrow funds for 8% of the total CIP. Changes occurring within the Tax Incremental Districts (TIDs) in 2015 include: 1) Library Block Project is expected to make substantial impacts to TID#7; 2) Industrial Park Expansion funded with \$800,000 grant to provide street, utilities and stormwater management for a 39 acre parcel in TID#6; and 3) Rountree River Branch Trail – bridge replacement, trail reconfiguration, paving and lighting as part of TID#5. Bierke thanked Finance Director Valerie Martin, Director of Administration Duane Borgen, and the Finance Dept staff for their help in assembling the budget. The Council is scheduled to meet on October 6 at 5 PM to start the budget review process. Department Heads will be present.

### CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Bonin, second by Stockhausen to approve the consent calendar as follows: September 9, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes as amended; Payment of Bills in the amount of \$1,548,788.77; Re-appointment of Mary Miller to the Board of Appeals (3 year term); Change of Agent for Walgreens Co., Deerfield, (Jared Baker, Agent) for premises at 675 S Water Street (Walgreens #12498); One-Year Operator License to Cassandra L Fulton and Colten R Tuescher; Two-Year Operator License to Taylor J Wescott and Nicole E Simmons; Parade Permit to UW-Platteville for Homecoming on October 11; Walk Permit to Family Advocates for Domestic Violence Awareness Week on October 21; Resolution 14-24 Application for Exemption from the Levy of any County Library Tax; Resolution 14-25 Proclaiming October 2014 as United Nations Month; and establishing Halloween Trick or Treat Hours for Friday, October 31 from 4 PM – 7 PM. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS, OBSERVATIONS AND PETITIONS, if any.

None

REPORTS

- A. Committee Reports – Meeting reports were submitted by the Airport Commission, Plan Commission, Water & Sewer Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Redevelopment Authority (RDA), Library Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals.
- B. Other Reports
  - 1. Building Inspection Department Report
  - 2. Department Progress Reports – Written progress reports of department operations and activities were submitted by the Museum, Public Library, Senior Center, City Attorney, Community Planning & Development, City Manager, Public Works, Director of Administration, and EMS.

ACTION

- A. *Contracted 2014-2016 Auditing Services* – Director of Finance Duane Borgen reviewed that three proposals from auditing firms were received. After reviewing references and experience of the firms for auditing Wisconsin municipalities, he recommended Johnson Block and Co., Inc. Motion by Kilian, second by Denn to accept the proposal from Johnson Block and Co., Inc. for auditing services for the 2014-2016 calendar years. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.
- B. *Resolution 14-26 Conditional Use Permit for Home Occupation at 200 Jewett Street* – Community Planning & Development Director Joe Carroll explained that the request was for a conditional use permit to operate an intensive home occupation for a massage therapy business out of the residence at 200 Jewett Street. The applicant would be the only employee of the business. Parking is available in the driveway and there are no physical changes proposed to the property or structure. The Plan Commission recommended approval of the request. Motion by Bonin, second by Stockhausen to adopt Resolution 14-26 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for 200 Jewett Street as proposed. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.
- C. *Resolution 14-27 Conditional Use Permit for Home Occupation at 410 West Madison Street* - Community Planning & Development Director Joe Carroll explained that the request was for a conditional use permit to operate a business out of the 410 West Madison Street residence that involved the repair and refinishing of furniture and the sale of firewood. This business has been ongoing for several years, but Staff recently received a call from some neighbors with concerns with the appearance of the property. Since the business involves retail sales on site and includes regular visits from clients, they determined that the use required approval as an intensive home occupation. Based on some of the concerns that were raised, the Plan Commission recommended approval with the following conditions: 1) the storage of the furniture and related equipment shall be maintained inside the garage or house; 2) the splitting, storage, and display of firewood shall be limited to the applicant's property, and only within the side and rear yards as defined by the Zoning Ordinance; and 3) the location of firewood shall be brought into compliance with the above location restrictions prior to June 1, 2015. Motion by Bonin, second by Stockhausen to adopt Resolution 14-27 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for 410 West Madison Street as presented. Kilian thought that home occupations always needed to be within the dwelling and was concerned that the Code was being bent to allow this to take place. Carroll stated that the difficulty in this particular case was that the applicant as a homeowner is allowed to have firewood on his property, is allowed to split firewood on his property for his own personal use, so how would you make a distinction which piece of firewood is for the business and which piece is for sale? So he took the approach that there are certain requirements for home occupations that are allowed for approval and anything above and beyond would need to be approved by the Council. Kilian was also concerned with the height of the stacked wood. Motion by Kilian to amend the motion to limit the height of the

firewood to 6 feet. Motion died for lack of a second. Roger Steinhoff and Beth Steinhoff of 415 W Madison Street provided photos of the property and spoke to the chronic mess that they get to look at every day outside their window, wanted to know who would be regulating this, and worried about the value of their home going down. They are all for Terry getting his permits, but they just want him to clean up the property. Seeboth-Wilson questioned if the property owner had been cited since his property wasn't up to code, to which Carroll didn't know if it had been raised to City Staff in the past. Motion carried 5-1 on a roll call vote with Seeboth-Wilson voting against.

- D. *Sign Approval for a Bed and Breakfast at 130 North Hickory Street* – Community Planning & Development Director Joe Carroll explained the request is to allow a free standing sign in the front yard at the bed and breakfast establishment at 130 North Hickory Street. The proposed sign will be located in the front yard, on the north side of the private sidewalk, and 5 feet from the public sidewalk. The exact location will be contingent on a utility locate. The Plan Commission recommended approval. Stockhausen noted that she received a complaint on the front lawn maintenance and asked the applicant how high the sign was so that it was visible above her plants. Applicant Arlene Siss responded that she has a natural garden with native plants and will most likely clear off some of the area to make it visible. Motion by Kilian, second by Denn to approve the request to allow a free-standing sign for the Bed and Breakfast at 130 N Hickory Street as presented. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.
- E. *Final Plat Approval for Platteville Industry Park #7* – Community Planning & Development Director Joe Carroll explained that this is the next phase of development of the property at 600 Eastside Road recently purchased by the City with the intent of using it for an expansion of the industry park. The plat divides the property into 9 lots that would be suitable for a variety of industrial uses, ranging in size from 1.7 acres to 7.5 acres. It also includes an extension of Vision Drive from Eastside Road to Philips Road. The lots will be served by utilities that will be installed as part of the industry park expansion project and all the lots will have utility easements to accommodate the water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer mains. This final plat substantially meets the requirements of the preliminary plat approved by the Council in July. Plan Commission recommended approval. Motion by Denn, second by Bonin to approve the final plat for Platteville Industry Park #7 as presented. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.
- F. *Demolition of Houses at 85 North Water Street, 160 East Mineral Street, and 222 North Elm Street* – Public Works Director Howard Crofoot explained that demolition bids were solicited from three firms with two firms responding. Crofoot noted that recently there was discussion about a non-profit organization doing some salvaging at the properties. He checked with the low bidder and they had no problem with it as long as the non-profit is finished before the demolition work is scheduled late October/early November. Motion by Stockhausen, second by Bonin to award the bid for demolition work at 85 N Water, 160 E Mineral, and 222 N Elm to Rural Excavating of Platteville for a total amount of \$25,000. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.

#### INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- A. *Speed Limit Changes on Business Hwy 151* – City Manager Larry Bierke explained that after discussions with Councilmember Stockhausen, an ordinance was drafted in an effort to slow vehicular traffic in and around the busier business corridor and intersection on Business Hwy 151. This looks at reducing the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph where the four lanes become two lanes: reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph where those two lanes come down the hill and cross Valley Road and stay at 25 mph all the way to the Chamber of Commerce and then speed back up. Discussion was held about that lack of pedestrian crosswalks and walk lights. Seeboth noted that crosswalks and walk lights could be installed for approximately \$500,000 per a study done previously by Dr. Fields and students. Stockhausen noted that her intent was to slow down

traffic gradually because of the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents with visibility issues and traffic going up and down hills. Denn pointed out the negative impact of slowing traffic may result in the possibility of traffic backing up in all four directions. Bonin noted that the pedestrian safety is what he is most worried about. Bierke noted that with the amount of new development/businesses on Business Hwy 151 and resulting additional traffic, if the Council decides to move forward with this, that they give the public enough time to adjust to it. Crofoot reiterated that to make appropriate changes to Hwy 80/81 intersection to allow for fully assessable accommodations, it was estimated to cost \$500,000. Noted that it's not just signal lights, the bulk of the cost is the actual concrete walkways and separator median islands at the corners of each of the intersections. Stockhausen reminded the Council that her request was just to slow the traffic down. Action at next meeting.

- B. *Grant County Highway Construction Aids* – Director of Public Works Howard Crofoot explained that annually the City sends \$2,000 in escrow to Grant County for street construction projects and Grant County matches the funding. After the project is complete, the City receives the full \$4,000. Action at next meeting.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Stockhausen, 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 Evaluation and Employment Contract* – and reconvene to open session to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Stockhausen, second by Denn to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 on roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Martin  
City Clerk