

**Common Council  
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Due to State and Federal mandated social distancing in response to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually to ensure the safety of members and the public. Attendance was through a virtual meeting at <https://meet.google.com/pyk-ohwa-rix> and also available by phone at 1 (765) 999-1628, PIN: 254 197 708#

- 1. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bill Hurtley at 6:03 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call.** Members present: Mayor Bill Hurtley, Alderpersons Jim Brooks, Rick Cole, Dianne Duggan, Ben Ladick, Joy Morrison, and Erika Stuart. Others present: City Administrator/Finance Director Ian Rigg, City Clerk/Treasurer Judy Walton, Community Development Director Jason Sergeant, City Attorney Mark Kopp, EMS Chief Jamie Kessenich and Aldermanic District applicants Bill Lathrop, Gene Lewis, and Ken Updike.
- 3. Approval of Agenda.** Cole made a motion, seconded by Brooks to approve the agenda. Motion approved 6-0.
- 4. Candidate Review for Adler District 1 and 3.**
  - A.** Applicant opening statements. Each applicant had provided a letter of interest but added:
    - 1) Bill Lathrop, seeking appointment to District #1, is retired and wants to give back to the community. He has been a resident of the community for 25 years.
    - 2) Gene Lewis, seeking appointment to District #3, has lived on Union Street since 1992, a home his grandparents purchased on 1941. His grandfather served on Council. He (Gene) previously served on the Council and has missed it.
    - 3) Ken Updike, seeking appointment to District #3, would like to give back to the community that has given him and his family so much.
  - B.** Council reviewed the applicants' letter of interest. Morrison asked the applicants what their biggest concern for the city is and Rigg asked what they thought was the biggest asset to our community.
  - C.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to appoint Bill Lathrop to the Alderperson District #1 seat. Motion approved 6-0 on a roll call vote.
  - D.** Mayor Hurtley stated Council has 2 qualified applicants for District #3. He encouraged each applicant to reach out to him if they had interest in being appointed to a committee.

Council individually announced their preferred applicant. Gene Lewis was named by Cole, Duggan, Ladick, Morrison, and Stuart. Ken Updike was named by Brooks.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to appoint Gene Lewis to the Alderperson District #3 seat. Motion approved 6-0 on a roll call vote.

The Oath of Office was administered by the City Clerk and Alderperson's Lathrop and Lewis took their seats.

5. **Approval of Minutes.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to waive the reading of the minutes of May 12, 2020 and approve as presented with the following corrections: In Item 2, changing Sergeant Lieutenant Jones and in Item 6D6, changing costs to regulatory requirements. Motion approved 8-0.
6. **Civility reminder.** Recognition of the commitment to civility and decorum at Council meetings.
7. **Citizen Appearances other than agenda items listed.** None
8. **Reports of Committees**

**A. Library Board Report.** Rigg read a report prepared by Library Director Megan Kloeckner as follows:

General Updates

- We are now offering curbside pickup for all items in SHARE. Delivery has started to run between all of the libraries this week.
- We are offering a virtual reading challenge for all ages this summer. As mentioned at last month's meeting, we now have access to Beanstack. Patrons can sign up for the program from our website or through the Beanstack app.

Grant Funding

- The Wisconsin Humanities Council has approved our Wisconsin Humanities CARES Relief Grant application. We will be receiving \$2,000 that will be used to purchase items that will help us reopen while taking the proper cautions regarding COVID-19. Items that will be purchased include hand sanitizer, face shields, cleaning supplies, and sneeze guards for the service desks.

**B. Youth Center Advisory Board Report.** No report.

**C. Plan Commission Report**

- 1) Cole made a motion, seconded by Stuart to approve Lot Line Adjustment on Parcel 6-20-206 with the condition "Parcel A" or "Parcel B" cannot be transferred as separate parcels as described on the Plat of Survey. Hurtley explained this is to accommodate the setback for the barn. Both parcels have the same owner. Motion approved 8-0.

**D. Finance and Labor Relations Committee Report**

- 1) Cole made a motion, seconded by Duggan to accept the City bills as presented in the amount of \$1,250,884.48. Motion approved 8-0 on a roll call vote.
- 2) Rigg gave an update on the 2020 Revaluation. He talked with City Assessor Dean Peters. 2020 will be a maintenance year and they will finish interior inspections in the spring. Brooks questioned if all properties would be valued under the same economic conditions.

**E. Public Safety Committee Report.** Duggan reported they approved original and renewal operator's licenses; they discussed supporting a private 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, they declined that; EVPD is in interviews for new officers; Lieutenant Jones is investigating new body cameras; calls for service are up again; and tomorrow they have the representative visits to confirm compliance for accreditation. EMS calls are slightly down and the county now has facilities to decontaminate the

ambulances after runs. Ian added that EVPD completed interviews for new officers. They had a large selection of really good candidates and it was the most successful interview process they've done in a long time.

- F. Municipal Services Report.** Brooks reported they discussed the Road Safety Report. They are painting several intersections with a different type of paint to help with visibility and there are some changes to downtown parking that will be sent back to the Public Safety Committee for discussion. WPPI made \$500,000 out of reserves available to communities as part of a Community Recharge Program. Evansville received \$9,200 and were asked to go make an impact in the community. Additionally WPPI took some measures through the use of rate stabilization money and a return on equity settlement, from a lawsuit from 2018 that wasn't expected to come in until next year, and used that benefit to shave the peak off the summer demand charge to help keep rates down. WPPI is doing what they can to help keep the rates down as we go through the summer. The embargo on disconnects is still going on; we would like to see the moratorium end earlier than later but we are in better shape than a lot of our sister communities as far as arrearages go.

- 1) Brooks made a motion, seconded by Ladick to approve Resolution 2020-15, Fee Schedule – Sewer Credits. Brooks explained how the sewer credits are calculated currently. The percentage of credit was based on whether the water drained to the sanitary sewer system or not. Clerically, there was a sewer credit for establishing new lawns and filling pools. This will clean up the process and allow for credits to be handled on the administrative level and not the committee level. Rigg added that past practice for lawns and pools was done without anything being put into the tariff or fee schedule. Our tariff only allows for use of a deduct meter so this will make the credits uniform. Motion approved 8-0 on a roll call vote.

- G. Economic Development Committee.** Brooks reported they talked about COVID-19 and what we can do to support small businesses; they worked on the loan forgiveness application; and they discussed the changes to the small business loans.

- H. Parks and Recreation Board Report.** Morrison reported the tennis nets are up; soccer season has been cancelled; T-ball has been cancelled; the Jay's season has been postponed until July 4<sup>th</sup> and there will be no Thursday league. Rigg reported that people can start renting shelters but there are extra rules. Those that made reservations are eligible for refunds if they choose. Morrison added that the 6' dog park fencing was estimated to cost \$14,822 for the property that is 0.7 acres.

- 1) Morrison stated there was a special meeting on opening the pool for the 2020 calendar year last night. They discussed concerns for the public safety employees if they have to respond to the pool, get infected, and then have to be off for 2 weeks.

Hurtley commented that Edgerton is opening their pool on July 1<sup>st</sup> but they made a statement of concern about the possibility of influx of others from outlying communities. He doesn't feel it is economically feasible to open the pool. Stuart asked about the vote made at the Park and Recreation Committee last night and Hurtley responded that it was not a final vote. He didn't feel comfortable having the Park and Recreation Board, filled mostly with citizens, to make a permanent

decision on the pool season. He doesn't want to put that onus on them. We wanted their input and we received that.

Stuart did some investigating with other communities as far as what they are doing and wondered if we were even prepared to handle the complexity of scheduling and distancing rules.

Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to open the pool July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lathrop commented that there are public safety issues, we are looking at a shortened season and a shortened capacity, and we need to be consistent about allowing the pool to open but not support having the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Motion failed 0-8 on a roll call vote.

- I. Historic Preservation Commission.** Morrison reported they met on May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. They approved 7 applications, staff issued 2 certificates of appropriateness, and they discussed enforcement at 137-139 E Main for a sign.
  - J. Fire District Report.** Brooks reported they had a short meeting. They discussed the Route to Recovery Grant Program. He asked if there were guidelines for use of equipment for community events but members had to leave for a call.
  - K. Police Commission Report.** No report.
  - L. Energy Independence Team Report.** No report.
  - M. Board of Appeals Report.** No report.
- 9. Unfinished Business.** None.
- 10. Communications and Recommendations of the Administrator.** Rigg reported that the Town of Union will meet on Thursday and will discuss the intergovernmental agreement, he will be in attendance. He has asked staff to review their capital improvement plans.
- A.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Lathrop to approve Resolution 2020-16 – Extending the Emergency Declaration. Rigg explained that, with the addition of Section K, this will extend what we currently have. Motion approved 8-0 on a roll call vote.
  - B.** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Duggan to approve Resolution 2020-17 – Act 185. Motion approved 8-0 on a roll call vote.
  - C.** Rigg reported that starting June 16<sup>th</sup> we will be at nearly full staff. Protective shields will be up and to limit traffic, city hall will be open by appointment only until July 1<sup>st</sup>. Building permits will be done on-site or online. Full opening is a work in progress. The public has been very patient and he is very grateful for that. We need to prepare for the moratorium ending and elections starting. We practiced with a combined in-person and virtual meeting in the Council chambers but the audio was a problem. He has ordered tables to allow for sufficient separation in the chambers.
- 11. Communications and Recommendations of the Mayor.** Hurtley informed Council that he and Chief Reese signed a joint letter on racism with the school district. He thanked the Department of Public Works, Water & Light, EVPD, and EMS for all the things they do publicly. He will be out of town from June 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 12. New Business.** None
- 13. Introduction of New Ordinances**

- A. Brooks presented the first reading of Ordinance 2020-09 Rezoning Territory from Special Use Business District (B-5) to Industrial District Three (I-3).

**14. Meeting Reminders**

- A. The next regular meeting is July 14, 2020 6:00 p.m.

- 15. Closed Session:** Brooks made a motion, seconded by Cole to convene in closed session pursuant to Sec. 19.85(1)(e) of the Wis. Stats. to deliberate, discuss, and possibly establish negotiating parameters for the possible purchase of public property or properties where discussion in open session might negatively impact competitive or bargaining positions. Upon completion, Common Council will not reconvene in open session. Motion approved 7-0 on a roll call vote at 7:53 p.m. Stuart was absent for the vote.

The City Clerk left the meeting at this time.

A new virtual meeting was started for closed session. No action was taken during closed session and the meeting ended at 8:13 p.m.

Judy Walton, City Clerk/Treasurer