

Regular Meeting

May 16, 2023

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Hennessey, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Also present: Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong.

Public Comment

David Heffel of Tomah, Wisconsin, appeared before the Village Board to express his concerns about urban sprawl. He stated urban sprawl is a symptom of growth which is an antiquated concept destroying things we enjoy about living here. Urban sprawl is the expansion of low-density urban development outward from the center of a city which has negative impacts on the urban environment. This is detrimental on air quality, water courses, decreased biodiversity, and negative economic and social implications. Mr. Heffel is traveling the State of Wisconsin discussing this matter with developers and those in charge of smart growth and urban development.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023, meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$113,842.72. Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Reserve "Class B" Liquor License

Noe Ordaz Vega appeared before the Village Board to inquire about applying for a Reserve "Class B" Liquor License for a proposed lease of the 201 East City Highway 16 location to open a Mexican bar, grill, and restaurant. He stated his business would contribute to the Village, generate employment, and attract visitors to the Village. He plans to open the restaurant portion first and then later remodel the building to construct a bar. The Village Board asked Mr. Vega to consider waiting to apply for the liquor license until the property is ready to open the bar. He will consider this advice and let the Board know next month.

Special Event Application

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the issuance of a Special Event Permit to the West Salem Park & Recreation Department in order to hold the annual West Salem Bike Rodeo scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2023, from 3:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on East Avenue and to waive the \$50 fee. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Joint Powers Agreement for 2023

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve entering into the Joint Powers Agreement for 2023 with La Crosse County. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Street Committee

Trustee Hennessey reported on the May 8, 2023, Street Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Christopher Dolan to discuss a change to Village Ordinance 6.05(C)(1) regarding the parking of trucks, trailers, and mobile homes on Village streets and alleys and to discuss no parking on Industrial Drive. Village Ordinance No. 6.05(C)(1) states as follows:

6.05(C) Parking of Trucks, Trailers and Mobile Homes.

(1) Trucks larger than nine thousand (9,000) pounds or more gross weight shall not park on any street or alley within the Village except temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading and while the vehicle is attended by a licensed operator so that it may be promptly moved in the case of an emergency or to avoid traffic obstruction.

Mr. Dolan would like to be able to park his 25,000-pound work truck on West Avenue in front of his home. He stated the area is both residential and industrial use, and as such, parking on the street should be allowed. The Committee discussed the street construction standards of West Avenue, the width of the street, enforcement practices in the Village, and ordinances in place in the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska and the Village of Bangor. La Crosse and Onalaska both prohibit trucks over 12,000 pounds and over 8 feet wide or 8 feet high and longer than 18 feet from parking on city streets for longer than two hours. The Village of Bangor prohibits trucks over 15,000 pounds and over 8 feet high and longer than 20 feet from parking on Village streets. Updating the Village Ordinance to match any of the three neighboring municipalities would not address Mr. Dolan's issue, however. The Committee tabled this matter until next month to allow for street construction inspection and to gather more information. The Committee then discussed the recent Village Board approval for the Coulee Region Christian School to locate grades 7 through 12 at 701 Industrial Drive. The concern is traffic on both Neshonoc Road and Industrial Drive and how allowing vehicle parking on either side of Industrial Drive could cause safety and visibility issues. Chief Holzhausen suggested the area could be designated a school zone under the Village Ordinances and, thus, prohibit parking from 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on school days. The Committee directed Public Works Director Loren Schwier to provide the lineal feet on both sides of Industrial Drive from the intersection of Neshonoc Road to the hydrant just passed the library property for use in drafting a proposed Ordinance. The Committee then recommended the Village Board approve an Ordinance designating Industrial Drive from its intersection with Neshonoc Road to the fire hydrant east of the library as a no parking school zone area.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the Street Committee meeting minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Ordinance No. 519

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Twining to schedule a public hearing on Ordinance No. 519 amending Chapter 6 for no parking at the new Coulee Region Christian School location on Industrial Drive for Tuesday, June 6, 2023, beginning at 6:45 p.m.. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Trustee Curtis reported on the May 10, 2023, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to tour the newly-converted turf practice facility and to

discuss a request by the Friends of West Salem Baseball to install heat in the new 10,000-square foot year-round turf practice facility. The Friends of West Salem Baseball would like to better utilize the West Salem Community Shelter by now installing three dog heaters on the east end of the facility. G & T Heating is providing the units at \$6,000 cost and donating the installation. The goal is to maintain a 45-degree constant temperature for use not only baseball and softball but also for golf, soccer, track, and other recreation programs. The Committee and Friends discussed what kind of hazards might be created by installing heat in a structure that was not meant to be heated and an environmental engineer should be contacted to review the facility and provide expert opinion. Also discussed were the monthly electrical and natural gas costs, installation of replacement doors to secure the facility and to prevent users from accessing both sides during rentals, security system, camera system, and what programs could be charged to rent the facility in order to recoup those expenditures. The Committee voted unanimously to acquire as soon as possible estimates for engineering review of the facility and Xcel Energy and WE Energies monthly costs to heat the facility together with potential revenues for review by the Committee and recommendation to the Village Board.

Motion by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the minutes of the Buildings and Grounds Committee held on May 10, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Twining to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator