

Regular Meeting

June 20, 2023

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Village President Scott Schumacher. Trustees present: Anderson, Curtis, Lautz, Leicht, and Twining. Trustee Hennessey arrived later as noted below. Also present: Police Chief Kyle Holzhausen, Public Works Director Loren Schwier, Recreation Director Tony DeGaetano, Stephen Cohen, Koen Molling, Cameron Olson, and Village Administrator Teresa DeLong.

Minutes

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2023, meeting as written. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Trustee Hennessey arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Claims

Claims were presented for payment totaling \$127,676.30. Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Twining to approve the payment of all claims as listed. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye.

Request to Install Solar Panels

West Salem High School student Koen Molling appeared before the Village Board along with Cameron Olson of Olson Solar Energy to present a proposal to install solar panels on the roof of the West Salem Community Shelter as a senior exit project. Mr. Molling has talked with several entities and individuals regarding raising funds to pay for the installation of 20 solar panels over the new multi-use recreation facility on the east half of the West Salem Community Shelter. The solar package estimate is \$35,181.41. Mr. Molling discussed the estimated savings and payback period, the amount of kilowatts produced annually, and Cameron Olson explained how the savings is calculated and reconciled at the end of each year.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey that once Koen Molling is prepared to move forward with the project that this matter be reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee for recommendation to the Village Board. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

2023-2024 License Application

Motion by Trustee Leicht, seconded by Trustee Curtis to approve the 2023-2024 License Applications as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Law Enforcement Committee

Trustee Lautz reported on the June 12, 2023, Law Enforcement Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review with possible recommendation to Village Board a request that the Village allow the keeping of chickens and ducks. A copy of the 2017 Ordinance Amending Animal Control was distributed with the meeting notice for reference purposes. Alyssa Kelley addressed the Committee stating she has been a Village resident for almost four years. She notes the Village does not allow residents to own chickens. Ms. Kelley presently keeps chickens in Holmen, and she would like to raise

chickens at her home in West Salem. She states she is passionate about people developing a local, healthy, and secure food system, and she believes that allowing chickens will benefit our community in many ways. Ms. Kelley researched the Town of Shelby and the Village of Holmen ordinances, and she notes the care and control of animals is the same. The City of La Crosse allows its residents to keep up to five hens. She stated ten to twelve chickens would produce four dozen eggs per week and would easily support a medium to large-sized family. Having the ability to keep chickens will provide food stability through egg production, reduce food waste because chickens enjoy kitchen scraps as treats, and chickens are beneficial to reducing the harmful bug population in our area. The Committee discussed containment, permitting, inspections, notifications to neighbors, enforcement, and reviewed the previous ordinance presented to the Village Board in 2017. Ms. Kelley proposes using the words poultry and fowl so chickens and ducks would be allowed, changing the allowed number to 10 or 12, and eliminating the permit process. She asked what the fee would be if the permit requirement was not removed from the ordinance. The Committee recommended the Village Board schedule a public hearing on an ordinance to allow the keeping of chickens in the Village.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Anderson to approve the minutes of the Law Enforcement Committee meeting held on July 12, 2023, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Lautz, seconded by Trustee Hennessey to schedule a public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 520 Amending Animal Control to Allow Keeping of Chickens in the Village of West Salem for Tuesday, July 18, 2023, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Street Committee

Trustee Hennessey reported on the June 14, 2023, Street Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss a requested change to Village Ordinance 6.05(C)(1) regarding parking of trucks, trailers, and mobile homes on Village streets and alleys. Mr. Dolan would like to be able to park his 25,000-pound work truck on West Avenue in front of his home. At the May Street Committee meeting, Public Works Director Loren Schwier was directed to obtain street thickness samples of West Avenue. Mr. Schwier reported a normal street is constructed with three inches of blacktop. A truck route will typically have four inches of blacktop. Parking lots at Kwik Trip locations are five inches thick. The Public Works Department drilled in three locations along West Avenue to ascertain thickness of the blacktop. It was found there is only 2½ inches of blacktop at all three locations on West Avenue. Learning this in addition to the Village Engineer's recommendation not to change the ordinance, Mr. Schwier would also recommend the Committee not allow parking of trucks weighing over 9,000 pounds on Village streets. It was noted revising the ordinance to Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska or Village of Bangor regulations still would not allow Mr. Dolan's truck to park on the street for more than two hours. The Street Committee adjourned the meeting with no action taken on the request.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Leicht to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2023, Street Committee meeting, as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Hennessey, seconded by Trustee Leicht to draft an Ordinance to prohibit trucks over 12,000 pounds and over 8 feet wide or 8 feet high from parking on Village streets for review and action at the next Village Board meeting. Roll call vote: Unanimous aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Trustee Twining, seconded by Trustee Curtis to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator