

**WORKSHOP
CITY OF VERNON
MARCH 1, 2021
5:30 PM**

PRESENT – MAYOR: Candice Hodges; **COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Joseph Brock, Gwendolyn March, Laura Brewer, Jeanie Shipes, Rebecca Baxley; **CITY CLERK:** Tracy Walker; **CITY ATTORNEY:** Michelle Jordan; **PUBLIC WORKS:** Jason Rhoton; **FIRE CHIEF:** ShiQuan Green; **RECREATION:** Timothy Garner

Council President, Joseph Brock, called the Workshop to order at 5:35

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – recited by all.

Public Hearing Resolution 21-171- Rescheduled for 5:30pm Tuesday 3/2/21

1. WCSB SWAT – Electronic devices available at schools. Milton Brown along with a few school kids, presented a brief presentation about what SWAT is and how there is a growing problem with vaping in our schools, due to how easy it is to conceal vaping pipes.

2. Tray Hawkins – Interlocal Agreement with WCBCC Regarding Communications Transmissions (Broadband). After brief discussion about outlying areas and cost item was placed on agenda for next meeting scheduled March 15, 2021. Also Tray Hawkins mentioned that if we ever have the need for dirt that we could get with him, or Johnny and Danny at the yard and the County would get us the dirt for free and would haul rock at cost.

3. Farmers Market – City Hall Parking Lot on Sundays Dan Crickard is wanting to do a farmers' market on Sundays from 1-5 in the parking lot of City Hall. Concerns about who would oversee the market were discussed. Rhonda Dickinson was mentioned of maybe overseeing it. Basic rates run between \$20 and \$40 a spot. Candice Hodges requested him to leave his contact information and she would pass it to the Garden Club.

4. Lease old fire Department – Trevor Marshall the Fire Department lease is up for renewal in 6 months. Due to the economy Mr. Marshall has not had the funds to replace the roof as stated in the agreement. He has made other improvements to the building. Requested to renew the lease for another year or end it at this time. Council has approved to renew his contract and give more time for roof replacement.

5. City Hall survey update: They are still working on it, one of the crew fell and broke his back which has given the company a little set back. But they are still working on it.

6. Annual Easter Egg Hunt: We already have a date set are looking to set a time. After a brief discussion, the time of 1PM to 3PM was approved.

7. Meet the Candidates: The election candidates that were present introduced themselves. Started off by Mary Porteus, Tony Lagman, Chad Jackson, and then incumbents Joseph Brock, Gwendolyn March and Rebecca Baxley. Not Present Gary Owens.

8. 7/4/21 Celebration: Reaching out for estimates for fireworks have not heard anything back. Ms. Brewer asked about having a pageant. She was advised that she could have one.

9. Community Center painting estimate: 2nd estimate was provided to include restrooms. Council advised to get another estimate from the 1st painter to include the restrooms. Also, to try and get a third bid which should also include the restrooms.

10. 7/31/21 Wausau's Funday at Community Center: Wausau's Possum Palace is being revamped and they are requesting to use our Community Center for their event. Find out more information to make sure what they need it to house, Pageant ETC. Put on agenda for March 15th after verification of use.

11. 3336 Jackson Ave – irrigation well After a brief discussion it was put on the agenda for the March 15th meeting.

12. Recreation – Had a meeting with the Washington County Dolphins. Discussed about making a County wide football team instead of a City team due to numbers not being high enough to fill a team. Still working out the specifics. Championship games for basketball are next week play offs are Monday and Tuesday. Championship games are Thursday. Timmy is now doing concessions, clerk requested to consider pay increase. Was declined at this time.

13. Inmate crew supervisor certification: The clerk reached out to DOC about getting someone certified to supervise an inmate crew, she is still waiting to hear back from them.

14. Sludge update – Jason: The plant is somewhat back to normal. Still doing some clean up. Council left decision up to Jason when to let septic haulers return.

15. Jessica Hawkins – non-payment and reinstatement fees (Jan) Ms. Hawkins requested that the non-payment fee and reinstatement fee be waived for Jan 2021. She claims her water was not turned off. The clerk advised of policy, reiterating it is a non-payment fee and not a shut off fee. And the reinstatement fee is to put the account back in good standing. This policy is printed on the bills. Ms. Hawkins claims to have placed her payment in the drop box

either the morning or the evening of the 19th, she is not sure. Video was not available due to her waiting until February 18th to make her claims. The policy states all payments must be in the office by 5PM of the 20th to avoid a non-payment fee. Placed on agenda for March 15th to vote on.

16. Policy review (AT&T issue) Bill was sent by express FEDEX on the 12th of February from their office in Spokane Washington. The payment did not arrive until after the 21st. Therefore, the account had been placed on non-payment status and the water shut off. Once payment was received water was turned back on. Questioned since the severe weather out west halted the mail should they pay the fees. It was decided to go by the policy. Pull policy and they will review it at the next meeting.

Public works director Jason Rhoton spoke of concerns of a dead tree on Sapp Ave that is leaning towards the power lines and is requesting permission to hire someone to cut it down. Permission was granted to hire someone to remove it.

Fire chief ShiQuan Green presented more price quotes for new tires for the vehicles. They were given to council for consideration. He also advised that the fire station has been pressure washed and the doors need painting, and that there are 3 windows in need of replacing that are broken. They look to have been pried open at some point. The fire dept needs digital pagers. Council advised Fire Chief to submit to the clerk the needs of the fire dept and she can present it to council.

Joseph Brock after all business was discussed the Council President expressed concerns about how the voting would be supervised at the ALF home, considering their request for more than 30 vote by mail ballots.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33.