

FEBRUARY 24, 2020 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Prescott City Council was held on Monday, February 24, 2020 in the Prescott Municipal Building, 800 Borner St., Prescott, WI 54021.

Call to order/Roll Call: Mayor David Hovel called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m. Members present were Bailey Ruona, Maureen Otwell, Galen Seipel and Rob Daugherty. Dar Hintz and Joshua Gergen were excused. City Administrator Jayne Brand represented staff. Also present Greg Adams, City Engineer. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Public Comments: Brian Crist, 527 Lake Street spoke in regards to the curb and gutter on Lake Street. He explained that he and several other residents on Lake Street had put in curb and gutter and they are asking for relief from the proposed special assessments for the street reconstruction. Brian stated emails had been sent by him and other neighbors.

Daugherty/Ruona motion to approve the consent agenda which included regular city council meeting minutes for February 10, 2020, working council meeting minutes for February 11, 2020, health and safety committee meeting minutes for February 10, 2020, intergovernmental meeting minutes for February 5, 2020, license committee meeting minutes for February 12, 2020, ordinance committee meeting minutes for February 12, 2020 and Prescott Public Library meeting minutes for December 19, 2019 passed without a negative voice vote.

The council discussed the special assessments for Lake Street for residents who currently have curb and gutter. Mayor Hovel stated curb and gutter are usually done as part of the reconstruction of a street project. Mayor Hovel stated there are minutes from the time when the request was made by the residents to put in the curb and gutter in 1997. The minutes do state that the residents could be charged special assessments if the street is reconstructed. Alderperson Seipel stated there were discussions at ordinance committee and the item came to the Council without a recommendation. Seipel stated the street is being moved so these residents will gain a few more feet of property in the right of way. Alderperson Seipel also stated the current curb and gutter would need to be removed as part of the reconstruction project. Alderperson Otwell asked if the curb and gutter was put in as part of a street project and was told it was not. Alderperson Ruona stated she would be in favor of reducing the special assessments for the residents with existing curb and gutter. Alderperson Daugherty stated there were previous residents who had come in regarding curb and gutter special assessments and the Council did not make a concession on those requests and doesn't want to set a precedent for future projects. Alderperson Seipel asked about the stormwater coming off of Highway 10 and where it is draining. City Engineer Greg Adams stated there is a 30 inch storm drain currently carrying the water from Highway 10. Adams also stated several other residents did landscaping to correct stormwater issues. Mayor Hovel ask City Engineer Adams how long a curb and gutter should last. Adams stated it should last 30 to 35 years. **Seipel/Daugherty motion to not waive special assessments for the residents on Lake Street who currently have curb and gutter passed by a majority vote with Otwell and Ruona voting nay. Mayor Hovel broke the tie by voting not to waive the special assessments.**

Preliminary special assessments for Lake Street will be brought forward at the next Council meeting.

Seipel/Ruona motion to approve operator licenses as presented passed without a negative voice vote.

Aldersperson Seipel informed the Council at the last license meeting they had meet with the owners of Two Rivers. Seipel explained he had contacted both chairs from the Town of Clifton and Oak Grove to see if they would be willing to sell one of their liquor licenses.

Mayor Hovel reviewed the tax increment financing districts in regards to the possible closing of the districts. TID #3 could be closed this year but it could also remain open for one additional year and the funds could be used for affordable housing. TID #4 could close in revenue 2023 but it is staff recommendation to keep this TID open and do the riverfront projects with funds from this TID. TID #5 can be closed in revenue 2024. Even though there is still debt on this TID it is recommended close this TID. Once this TID is closed the city would be able to open another TID. **Otwell/Daugherty motion to keep TID #3 open for one additional year for funds for affordable housing passed without a negative voice vote.**

A development agreement with Hearth Development was reviewed by Council. Hearth Development is redeveloping the property at 445 Court Street to create an assisted living memory care building. The city is granting Hearth Development \$25,000 which is coming from TID #4 and can be used for exterior items such as parking lots, lighting and site grading. The funds will be paid out to Hearth Development once they have spent the funds and the city receives receipts for those expenses. The project needs to be completed within 3 years in order to receive the funds. **Daugherty/Seipel motion to approve development agreement between the City of Prescott and Hearth Development passed without a negative voice vote.**

The Council discussed the Welcome and Heritage Center Building. Aldersperson Ruona stated there is no real benefit for the residents of the city to own the building. Aldersperson Daugherty stated the building should be preserved but the city can't afford to maintain the building. Aldersperson Ruona stated she would like to offer the building to the Welcome and Heritage Center Board for \$1.00. If the Board does not want to purchase the building it will be offered to the Chamber of Commerce for \$1.00. Aldersperson Seipel asked if the building is on the Historical Register. The building is on the State Historical Register. There are ways of removing the building for the Historical Register. **Ruona/Otwell motion to offer the building to the Welcome and Heritage Center Board for the price of \$1.00 and that the city will uphold the lease until December 31, 2020 passed without a negative voice vote.**

Ruona/Seipel motion to allow the Prescott Public Library the use of city hall property for Kickoff to Summer for Friday, June 5, 2020 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm passed without a negative voice vote.

Other Business:

There was discussion on possibly putting together the Historical Preservation Committee again.

Daugherty/Ruona motion to adjourn passed without a negative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne M. Brand
City Administrator

