

APRIL 26, 2021 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Prescott City Council was held on Monday, April 26, 2021 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 Thomas Oss, Dar Hintz, Bailey Ruona, Pat Knox, Maureen Otwell all online. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Beth Lansing, Police Chief Eric Michaels and City Administrator Jayne Brand all online represented staff.

Public Comments Jeff Ruehle of the Friends of Freedom Park Board and River Coulee Trails spoke in favor of allocating funds from the Freedom Park Fund balance.

Hintz/Otwell motion to approve the consent agenda which included regular city council meeting minutes for April 12, 2021, organizational city council meeting minutes for April 20, 2021, public work committee meeting minutes for April 21, 2021, Prescott Public Library Board minutes for March 18, 2021 and Prescott Housing Authority meeting minutes for March 10, 2021 passed without a negative voice vote.

Prescott Daze meeting set for May 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Hintz/Otwell motion to approve Resolution 12-21 "Resolution in support of sufficient state aid to cover VSP fee rate reduction" passed without a negative voice vote.

Aldersperson Ruona gave an update on the Coulee River Trails. The project is currently in the planning process. A number of committees are being for different aspects of the project.

A request was made from Friends of Freedom Park for the funds from the Freedom Park Fund balance. There is \$28,084 currently in the Fund balance. These funds came from under spending of the tax dollars which were allocated to Freedom Park. The Council has the control over these funds. It was reminded that once the funds are used there may not be additional fund balances as the budget from Freedom Park has been used over the last few years. There were questions if a smaller amount could be used. Jeff Reuhle, Vice Chair of the Friends of Freedom Park Board stated the fund will be used to reimburse the Executive Director has been dedicating a minimum of one 8 hour day a week to the Coulee River Trails project. The expected time frame is from September 2020 and goes out for 18 months. Rehule explained they need the full amount of the funding as the wage is \$40 per hour and using 8 hours per week for the 18 months will be close to the \$28,084 they are requesting.

Ruona/Otwell motion to disburse the \$28,084 to Friends of Freedom Park after receiving a written commitment on what the funds will be used for passed without a negative voice vote.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Beth Lansing discussed the use of the \$50,000 which was allocated in the 2021 from trails. These funds were set up as a capital project fund. The funds can be used for most items directly affecting the trails except for wages. The funds can also be allocated to carry over to the 2022 budget by the Council if not used in 2021. The decision to carry over to 2022 will be made later in the year.

Ruona/Hintz motion to approve authorization to perform professional engineering services for the Lake Street alterations in the amount of \$4,500 passed without a negative voice vote.

Aldersperson Daugherty presented the 2021 street maintenance proposals. Parks and Street Superintendent Mike Kinneman would like to try a different product which is a slurry. The life of the streets would be extended for an additional 7 to 10 years. **Ruona/Daugherty motion to accept proposal from Fahrner for street maintenance in the amount of \$82,320 with funds coming from 2021 street budget passed without a negative voice vote.**

The parking lot at city hall was also discussed as maintenance needs to be completed on the lot this year. The proposal is to use the slurry and then have two layers of black top laid down. The proposed cost is \$4,200. **Daugherty/Hintz motion to approve the maintenance of the city hall parking lot as proposed for the cost of \$4,200 with funds coming from the 2021 budget passed without a negative voice vote.**

The tennis court in Public Square needs to be resurfaced. The cost of the resurfacing is \$17,390. The funds would come from the payment in lieu of parkland fees. **Otwell/Daugherty motion to resurface the tennis court in the amount of \$17,390 with funds coming from payment in lieu of parkland passed without a negative voice vote.**

The public works committee discussed the pedestrian speed recommendations from the State of Wisconsin. There were a number of recommendations but many of them have large costs associated with them. It was decided to move forward with flashing yellow lights on speed limit signs. Placement of the signs will be determined by the Chief of Police and Street Superintendent.

Discussion was held on the proposed parking lot on land purchased by the city between Dakota Street N and the alley. The idea is to have parking for two rows of vehicles coming off of Cherry Street. There would be some additional parking off of Dakota Street which would be put in later. There would be cement blocks placed as a retaining wall but would not be higher than 4 feet. The parking area would be blacktopped and striped. The work would be completed by the Public Works Department. There was also discussion about employees and business owners parking on Broad Street. Mayor Hovel stated he would sign a letter to be sent to all Broad Street business owners. **Ruona/Otwell motion to approved work to be started on the parking lot with funds coming from TIF #4 passed without a negative voice vote.**

Otwell/Hintz motion to go into closed session per Wisconsin Stats. 19.85 (1) (E) Deliberating Or Negotiating The Purchasing Of Public Properties, The Investing Of Public Funds, Or Conducting Other Specified Public Business, Whenever Competitive Or Bargaining Reasons Require A Closed Session – Proposed Land Purchase Within ½ Mile Of TID #5 & Police Department Union Contract passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Otwell/Hintz motion to come out of closed session passed without a negative voice vote.

Otwell/Hintz motion to when hiring Patrol Officers for the Police Department the new hire can come in at the wage and vacation benefit they have when hired passed without a negative voice vote.

Staff was directed to proceed with items discussed in closed session.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne M. Brand
City Administrator