

## **CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Breunig at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Present at roll call were: Dave Gough, John Sonsalla, Don Osterday, Steve Pickett, Erin Gallagher and Cindy Corley. Absent: None. Also present were: Marilyn Hill, Mike Reuter, Bill McDaniel, Jeremy Williams, Gary Blazek of Vierbicher Associates, Sue Torstenson, Kim Winslow, Brian Lund and Phil Risseuw.

Motion by Gough second by Pickett that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Sonsalla second by Pickett to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under unfinished business, Alderperson Sonsalla asked about the status of the raze order on the property located at 110 Spring Street. Mike Reuter reported the raze order is still in effect. The new property owner has petitioned the Wisconsin Historical Society for historic designation for the house. The designation would make the property eligible for grant funds for restoration. The property owner stated he should have a response from the state by October 15, 2017. Mike stated he meets weekly with the contractor hired by the property owner.

Alderperson Osterday then asked about the request for proposals for remodeling of the second floor into senior apartments. It was reported a letter was sent to six architect firms, and they were given until the end of September to submit their proposals. Two firms visited the site today.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning the following recommendation from the Plan Commission:

- Conditional use permit request from Les and Sue Torstenson for their property located at 431 Wells Street. It was reported the Plan Commission denied the conditional use permit request, and that Sue Torstenson has agreed to combine the 431 Wells Street lot with their adjacent lot to the south. Then the proposed garage will be an accessory building, and would be permitted. A certified survey map is required to combine two city lots. When completed the certified survey map will be reviewed by the Plan Commission and City Council. Therefore, no action is required by the City Council at this time.

Sue Torstenson and Kim Winslow then left the meeting.

Mayor Breunig then asked the Council to go out of agenda order and take items 8 (e) and 8 (d) at this time. It was the consensus of this present to alter the agenda order for this meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning an application for Temporary Class "B" Retailer's license from Darlington Chamber/Main Street Program for a wine walk to be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM. A copy of the license application and approval letter from Chief King was included in the agenda packet. Marilyn Hill attended the meeting to present this request and answer questions. After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Sonsalla to approve the application for Temporary Class "B" Retailer's license from Darlington Chamber/Main Street Program as presented. Motion carried. Marilyn Hill then left the meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning the proposed construction of bump outs on Main Street as part of the Hwy. 23 reconstruction project. Gary Blazek of Vierbicher Associates attended the meeting to present this request and answer questions. Mr. Blazek explained this request came from the WDOT project engineers. They are working on the Main Street plans, and they want to know if the City Council wants them to include bump outs at the street crossings on Main Street. Gary distributed copies of a proposed plan showing the bump outs. He also stated this decision is entirely up to the City Council, and the WDOT representatives need an answer before they can continue on in their planning process. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gough second by Sonsalla to say no to bump outs on Main Street as part of the Hwy. 23 reconstruction project. By Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried. Gary Blazek then left the meeting.

It was the consensus of those present to return to normal agenda order.

Discussion was then held concerning a proposed Order to Raze for a building located at 816 E. Louisa St. A copy of the Order to Raze and supporting documentation from Mike Reuter was included in the agenda packet. Mike Reuter attended the meeting to present information and answer questions. Mike stated he has contacted this property owner several times over the past couple years under the City's property maintenance ordinance. The property owner Fabian Ortiz, has not corrected the situation, and the buildings have continued to deteriorate. Mike stated he completed a field estimate to repair damage to make the house fit for human habitation. Based on those calculations, it would cost \$99,221.00 to make the house fit for habitation. The current assessed value is \$3,900.00. The remodeling costs are 250.44% of the current assessed value, which far exceeds reasonable guidelines.

Mr. Reuter then reported he was recently informed by Mr. Ortiz that he has a prospective buyer for the property. Mike doesn't know if the new buyer plans on repairing the buildings. Mike recommends the City proceed with the Order to Raze and get the document recorded. That way the prospective buyer will be aware of the raze order prior to the purchase. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gough second by Osterday to approve the Order to Raze on the property located at 816 E. Louisa Street as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a proposed Disaster Declaration. A copy of the proposed document was included in the agenda packet. The disaster declaration relates to a natural disaster, namely torrential rain between July 19, 2017 and July 21, 2017, resulting in excess runoff and flooding, causing damage within the City of Darlington.

Jeremy Williams stated the approval of the proposed disaster declaration was recommended by representatives of Lafayette County Emergency Management, in support of the City of Darlington request for approximately \$35,000.00 in flood related expenses. After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Gough to approve the proposed Disaster Declaration as presented. Motion carried. Alderperson Osterday then stated he was informed by representatives of the Sieg Foundation that it will cost between \$7,000 and \$9,000 to replace the outfield grass at Sieg Field. He then asked Jeremy Williams to see if this cost could be added to the reimbursement request to FEMA. Mike Reuter then left the meeting.

The 2018 budget approval schedule was then presented for review and approval. A copy of the proposed schedule was included in the agenda packet. After review and consideration, motion by Gough second by Sonsalla to approve the 2018 budget approval schedule as presented. Motion carried. Jeremy Williams then left the meeting.

Motion by Pickett second by Sonsalla to approve the payment of the following August, 2017 vouchers: City vouchers #38586 thru #38687 in the amount of \$728,229.00; Payroll voucher #18996 and direct deposit vouchers #7489 thru #7596 in the amount of \$65,374.77; Water Dept. vouchers #5697 thru #5717 in the amount of \$28,366.31; Sewer Dept. vouchers #6481 thru #6501 in the amount of \$172,095.92; and Library vouchers #5383 thru #5392 in the amount of \$13,634.50. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a request to submit two delinquent personal property accounts to Attorney McDaniel for legal action. A letter explaining this request was included in the agenda packet. Two delinquent personal property tax accounts remain for 2016; Debbie Champion Ray d/b/a POSH - \$20.21; and Larry Wedig d/b/a LDW Holdings - \$245.90. These amounts were due January 31, 2017, and no payments have been made toward these amounts. The property owners have been sent several letters, however no response has been received. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gough second by Corley to submit these two delinquent personal property accounts to Attorney McDaniel for legal action. Motion carried.

Under reports of committees, Mayor Breunig encouraged those present to attend several upcoming community events. And he stated he will be absent for the next two Council meetings.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Gallagher second by Corley to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

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Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer