

CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS NOVEMBER 21, 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: Don Osterday, Steve Pickett, Erin Gallagher, Cindy Corley, Dave Gough and John Sonsalla. Absent: None. Also present were: Bill McDaniel, Dave Ohnstad, Andy Schilling, Tim McComish, Chris Andrews, Bob Hermanson, Jason King, Brian Lund and Phil Risseeuw.

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

Under comments from citizens present, Brian Lund stated he feels the City's fire hydrants are in need of painting.

Under new business, the Notice of Spring Election scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2018 was presented for review. The following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed: Mayor – David J. Breunig; Alderperson, First Aldermanic District – Cynthia D. Corley; Alderperson, Second Aldermanic District – Stephen J. Pickett; and Alderperson, Third Aldermanic District – John A. Sonsalla. The final day for filing nomination papers in the office of the City Clerk is 5:00 PM, Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The October 31, 2017 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. were then presented for review and approval. Copies of these financial statements were included in the agenda packet. After review and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Osterday to approve the October 31, 2017 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. as presented. Motion carried.

Members of the Rural Medical Ambulance Board then presented a report to the City Council regarding Rural Medical Ambulance Service. The following information was presented and discussed:

- The Board has concerns, as the number of willing volunteers has decreased. If this pattern continues it will affect the quality of service of the ambulance service.
- Providing an ambulance service is a Wis. Statute requirement of municipalities.
- Unfunded state mandates have affected the business part of this service.
- Another 40 hours of initial training may be added to the training requirements from the state.
- The current challenge for Rural Medical Ambulance Service is staffing the 24/7 coverage. At present Rural Medical employs 15 EMT's and 6 or 7 drivers.
- Cuba City's ambulance service was recently shut down for two weeks by the state, based on a complaint filed regarding lack of service.
- Paramount Ambulance Service cost for a fill in day of service is \$2,400.00.

- A plan is needed to fix this problem. One option is the privatization of the area ambulance service. Paramount Ambulance Service has provided a quote of \$23.00 per capita per year for five years to take over Rural Medical Ambulance Service. If this is approved, all the Rural Medical equipment and ambulance garage will be sold.
- Another quote of \$1,000 per weekend was provided by Green County Ambulance Service, using Rural Medical equipment.
- Total population used for sharing Rural Medical costs is 5892. At present the per capita charge is \$15.00. Based on inflation, that cost is expected to rise to \$20.00 to \$25.00 per capita.
- Rural Medical Ambulance crew member Jason King stated he did not agree with the Rural Medical Ambulance Board's analysis of the situation, stating talk about privatization is pre-mature. Jason also asked why their membership representative Jeff Berget was not invited to attend this meeting. Mr. Berget arrived at the meeting at 7:45 PM.
- Members of the Rural Medical Ambulance Board stated they attended this meeting to present this information, as the City of Darlington has the biggest share of the ambulance service costs. The privatization of the ambulance service would have an adverse effect on the City's budget.
- It was reported due to current levy limits imposed by the state on local municipalities, some other service would need to be reduced to cover this proposed extra cost.
- It was also reported these proposed changes will not affect the 2018 cost share information already provided by the Rural Medical Ambulance Board. These decisions will be discussed further during their board meetings in 2018.

After their presentation and discussions, Dave Ohnstad, Andy Schilling, Tim McComish, Chris Andrews, Bob Hermanson, Jason King and Jeff Berget left the meeting.

Under reports of committees, Mayor Breunig encouraged those present to attend the Chamber/Main Street Christmas Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Gallagher second by Corley to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer