

CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 2, 2010

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: John Sonsalla, Don Osterday, Steve Pickett, Bev Anderson and Cindy Corley. Excused absence: Dave Gough. Also present were: Kerry Black, Stan Krahenbuhl, Jason King, Nita Burke, Doug Lindstrom, Bob Salmi, Mark Nelson, Hillary Dickerson, Bill McDaniel and Phil Risseeuw.

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

Under comments from citizens present, Mark Nelson informed Mayor Breunig the Darlington Fire Dept. had not received payment yet for the river cleaning work completed south of the Laf. Co. Fairgrounds. Mayor Breunig stated the funds were to be disbursed through the Chamber/Main Street Program, from the Sportsman's Club. Mayor Breunig stated he would contact Suzy Osterday and request payment to the Darlington Fire Dept.

Under unfinished business, Alderperson Anderson updated the Council regarding the Mississippi River Initiative concept discussed at previous meetings. She reported 10-20% of the available grant funds can be used for economic development. They still need the \$25,000 match money. Mayor Breunig stated there would be long term benefits to this project, but it would be hard for the City to come up with the \$25,000. No action was taken by the Council regarding this matter.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning proposed Resolution 2010-01, A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Municipal Flood Control Grant Program. This grant application is for the Driver Opera House Project. A copy of the proposed resolution was included in the agenda packet. Kerry Black and Stan Krahenbuhl, representing the Driver Opera House Board attended the meeting to explain this request and answer questions. They stated this grant application is for grant funds to flood proof the first floor of the Driver Opera House building. The grant application will be completed by a consultant hired by the Driver Opera House Board. Match funds are required for this grant program; however additional grant funds will be applied for to provide the match funds. This grant application will have no cost to the City of Darlington. After discussion and consideration, motion by Sonsalla second by Pickett to approve Resolution 2010-01, A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Municipal Flood Control Grant Program as presented. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried. Kerry Black and Stan Krahenbuhl then left the meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning a proposed reduction in the Municipal Sewer Department loan request to the Department of Natural Resources, for the sewer main replacement project.

Copies of relevant information, including correspondence from representatives of the DNR, were included in the agenda packet. The initial loan request was for \$785,200.00; however based on actual 2009 income and expense information and DNR criteria; the sewer department would not have sufficient net income to handle all of the loan repayment costs. Correction options included a sewer rate increase or switch in borrowing to the general fund; or use of surplus funds to reduce the loan amount. Based on information from representatives of the DNR, the loan application needs to be reduced to \$400,000.00 in order to cash flow all the loan repayment costs. In order to reduce the loan request, \$385,000.00 in surplus funds would need to be used. At this time the sewer department has \$703,571.00 in surplus funds.

Discussion was held concerning this information. Discussion items included the following:

- How long did it take to build up the surplus funds in the sewer department; and how long will it take to build the funds back up.
- A sewer department rate increase would not be a good idea during these poor economic times.
- Total general fund debt already exceeds the 50% of debt limit guideline the Council wants to adhere to.
- Bob Salmi stated he wanted to use the surplus funds for improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. Now he may not have sufficient funds to pay for those improvements.

After discussion and consideration, motion by Osterday second by Anderson to reduce the loan application to the DNR to \$400,000.00; by applying \$385,000.00 of sewer department surplus funds to the sewer main replacement project. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a request from the Police Department to participate in Yamaha's Law Loan Program; related to use of a light utility vehicle for patrol. A copy of the program description was included in the agenda packet. Chief King explained the program, and how he would use the vehicle. The vehicle is given to the police department to use for free. The municipality needs to insure the vehicle. Chief King stated he contacted the City's insurance agent, and the insurance cost would be approximately \$17.00 per year. Chief King stated the vehicle would be used for special events, and recreation trail and campground patrol as needed. It could also be used by emergency response agencies as needed. The vehicle will have a light bar on it, and will be marked as a police vehicle. No extra people will be hired to man the vehicle, which would be used from March through October. After discussion and consideration, motion by Osterday second by Pickett to approve the Police Department's participation in the Yamaha Law Loan Program use of a light utility vehicle for one year. By Voice Vote: Ayes: Pickett, Anderson, Sonsalla and Osterday. Nay: Corley. Motion carried.

Motion by Osterday second by Sonsalla to approve the payment of the following February, 2010 vouchers: City vouchers #29621 thru #29706 in the amount of \$1,266,276.09; Payroll vouchers #18008 thru #18087 in the amount of \$53,834.61; Water Dept. vouchers #3970 thru #3982 in the amount of \$38,333.07; Sewer Dept. vouchers #4697 thru #4710 in the amount of \$16,121.02; and Library vouchers #4586 thru #4597 in the amount of \$11,183.92. Motion carried.

Under reports of committees, Mayor Breunig and Nita Burke reported on the Library Board meeting held February 22, 2010. A copy of the Johnson Public Library 2009 Annual Report and letter from Nita Burke was included in the agenda packet. A copy of the meeting minutes were distributed to Council members at this meeting. Nita reported total circulation increased from 2008 to 2009; however total number of registered borrowers decreased. She explained the reason for the decrease in number of borrowers is that she deleted the borrowers who had not used the library for three to five years. It was also reported library patrons are requesting additional open hours for the library.

Another topic reported on was the recently announced broadband grant for expansion of Badger net. This grant will provide funds to provide fiber optic connections to anchor institutions in 380 Wisconsin communities. The Johnson Public Library has been named as one of the community anchor institutions. Nita said she will keep the Council and Library Board informed as additional information becomes available. Mayor Breunig then encouraged those present to attend the Chamber/Main Street monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 11:30 AM.

Motion by Anderson second by Sonsalla to go into *closed session* in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats., to consider a proposed revision in the settlement agreement with Laf. County Historical Society regarding the restroom/shower building ramp in Pecatonica River Trails Park. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Sonsalla second by Anderson to reconvene to *regular session* in accordance with Section 19.85 (2) Wis. Stats., to take action if necessary regarding a proposed revision in the settlement agreement with Laf. County Historical Society regarding the restroom/shower building ramp in Pecatonica River Trails Park, and adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Osterday second by Sonsalla to accept the recommendation of Attorney Lori Lubinsky and stick with our original proposal to Laf. County Historical Society. By Voice Vote: Ayes: Osterday, Anderson, Corley and Sonsalla. Nay: Pickett. Motion carried.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Sonsalla second by Corley to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer