

**MINUTES  
CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
November 5, 2008**

A duly convened meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Scott Huebner in the Council Chambers. Council members present: Aldermen Al Haacke, Paul Neumyer, Jim Vollmar, Burt Babcock, Tom Hudson, Dave Larson and Chris Ross. Also present: City Attorney Eric Eberhardt, City Administrator Mark Grams, and City Planner Randy Tetzlaff. City Engineer Rob Vanden Noven was absent and excused. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meetings – October 21, 2008.
- B. Approve Original Operator's License Applications – James E. Goetsch, Bryon J. Krueger, Nicholas J. Cox, Robin M. Mueller, Daniel M. Williams, Christen Miller, and Christian C. Zaja

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

- A. Appointment To Commission On Aging – MOTION BY ALDERMAN HACKE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN ROSS TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MIKE KRAUS TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Update On Main Street Program – Mayor Huebner reported that five people were interviewed for the Director's job and Sara Grover was nominated. Training dates were set for Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for the Promotions Committee at the First Congregational Church, Upper Level; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the Design Committee at City Hall in the Lower Level Conference Room; and Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Economic Restructuring Committee at City Hall in the Lower Level Conference Room and the Organization Committee at the Holiday Inn in the lower meeting room. Training is done by staff from Madison. If you want to be on a committee and can't make it, let us know.

**OFFICERS'/STAFF REPORT**

- A. Update On Projects:
  - 1. Highway 32 – Now open to the Interstate. From Beutel north to the Interstate, there is still some construction work going on. The intersection at Wisconsin Street and Thomas Drive is open so you can turn onto Thomas Drive from Wisconsin Street to get to the shopping center. Starting work at the intersection at LL. Lighting is on from downtown to Beutel. Project is still on schedule and entire project should be completed by Thanksgiving.
  - 2. County Highway LL Water Main Extension – Project going well. The major hassle was with traffic delays on LL at the bridge where there was a 4-minute cycle for the lights to change. The City Engineer worked with the contractor and now instead of lights, there is a flagman. The project is on schedule
  - 3. Marina Floating Pier Project – A public informational meeting is scheduled for Monday of next week from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. here at City Hall in the Council Chambers. The project engineer will be present to answer any questions and get feedback from the Marina tenants.

4. Elections – The percentage of voters in the City was 73.5% turnout. City Hall was pretty busy with long lines to register. Overall it went well. Alderman Haacke extended thanks to all the poll workers and City clerical staff that put in long hours on Election Day and weeks before the election. There were a lot of absentee voters, around 2,000, more than double than the last Presidential Election.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES** – Don Voigt, 434 N. Wisconsin Street – Voiced his opinion that he is not in favor of storing boats anywhere in the Marina. John Weinrich, New Port Shores – Commented from a business point of view, that he is all for storing boats, but not in front of our windows.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **A. Finance and License Committee**

1. Review Proposed 2009 City Budgets – Alderman Hudson gave high points of our 2009 City Budget. The goal is to meet the expenditure restraint limits and State levy limits, as well as hold our tax rate as low as possible. It was a tricky budget this year because of the massive increase in Trash & Recycling collection costs, which was a huge hit to the budget. He mentioned that the City Administrator did a fantastic job with the budget in keeping everybody's expenditures down. City Administrator Grams said the Department Heads did an excellent job of keeping expenditures as low as possible.
2. Approve 2009 BID Budget And Tax Rate – Alderman Hudson reviewed the proposed 2009 BID Budget, pointing out where there were increases. He said the budget was up \$500 from last year. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO APPROVE THE 2009 BID BUDGET AND TAX RATE. A discussion followed. Alderman Vollmar's concern about the proposed budget was that he didn't think it was fair to raise the mill rate on the struggling businesses because we don't know how the budget is going to blend into the Main Street Budget. Alderman Hudson said this was the first increase in the mill rate in the last three years. Alderman Larson asked how the mill rate in Port Washington compared to similar communities? Sara Grover said she spoke with someone from the State Association of BID Boards and the average mill rate is 3.12/\$1,000 and ours is 1.99/\$1,000. The Mayor said that with the Main Street Budget, it is mandated by the State that 30% of our budget comes from the district within, 30% comes from the Municipality, and 30% comes from outside of the district. We have to meet these criteria. Alderman Ross questioned why we need all these groups to help build the City – Taurean Group, BID, Chamber and now Main Street? There has to be a reason that they all come together. Alderman Babcock said it did come up in the Finance Committee about having all these groups and hopefully the Main Street Program will become the coordination for these various entities in the City so we don't overlap and all have a common goal. Sara Grover wanted to clarify to Alderman Vollmar that the reason for the rest of the Board deciding to raise the mill rate is that while our reserves have been there over the past years, again not knowing where things are going in the future and/or the economic situation of the country at hand, we did not want to run the risk of running out of money to serve our members. Vote taken on motion. 6 ayes and 1 nay (Alderman Vollmar) **Motion carried.**

3. Resolution 2008-19 (Charge Off Of Accounts) – MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN ROSS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2008-19. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. Approve 2009 City Assessor Proposals – MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BABCOCK TO APPROVE MASS APPRAISALS AT \$25,000 ANNUALLY FOR TWO YEARS. A discussion followed. Vote on motion was 3 ayes and 4 nays (Aldermen Haacke, Neumyer, Vollmar and Ross). **Motion defeated.** MOTION BY ALDERMAN VOLLMAR, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN NEUMYER TO APPROVE ACCURATE APPRAISALS AT \$25,800 ANNUALLY. Vote on motion was 4 ayes and 3 nays (Aldermen Larson, Babcock and Hudson) Motion **carried.**
5. Approve Charging General Fund Capital Outlay Projects To Borrowed Funds Capital Outlay Accounts – Alderman Hudson reviewed the Memo from City Administrator Grams regarding charging General Fund Capital Outlay Projects to Borrowed Funds Capital Outlay Accounts. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO APPROVE CHARGING GENERAL FUND CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS TO BORROWED FUNDS CAPITAL OUTLAY ACCOUNTS. **Motion carried unanimously.**
6. Approve Memorandum Of Understanding Between The City And AFSCME Local 108 – Alderman Hudson said that the Union is asking that instead of paying each employee the specific dollar amount that it is owed, that the total dollar amount be converted to hours in that a catastrophic sick leave account be set up for employees to utilize. This sick leave account would only be utilized for employees that have run out of sick leave and can use the hours to add to their sick leave account. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN VOLLMAR TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY AND AFSCME LOCAL 108. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **BOARDS/COMMISSIONS**

### **A. Plan Commission**

1. Approve Placing Old Fire Station (Senior Center) On National Register Of Historic Places – City Planner Tetzlaff gave background information on the benefit of placing the old fire station on the National Register of Historic Places indicating that the NRHP status is for recognition and promotion and if the property is privately acquired, it would be eligible for tax credits to help finance renovations. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HAACKE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN VOLLMAR TO APPROVE PLACING THE OLD FIRE STATION (SENIOR CENTER) ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Storage Of Boats In Marina Parking Lot – Alderman Hudson said he felt that if the City could make money from the storage of boats in the Marina it could help offset the costs of supporting the rescue boat. It didn't seem like a big impact on the site lines and seemed like a good solution. However, after looking it over, in light of a couple of things including New Port Shores not being happy with it, at this point he wouldn't support it. MOTION BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO TABLE THE ISSUE UNTIL SPRING TO COME UP WITH SOME BETTER IDEAS ON

HOW AESTHETICALLY IT'S GOING TO LOOK WITH FENCING AND GET MORE INFORMATION ON IT BEFORE WE MAKE A JUDGMENT ON IT. City Attorney Eberhardt said before we go any farther, he would like to cover a few things in his opinion letter. He apologized to the Council for the advice he gave at the last Council Meeting regarding the procedure to follow in the vote taken for storage of boats in the Marina parking lot. After researching this matter, he referred to Roberts Rules of Order for guidance. He said the Council needs to act to rescind the prior motion that was passed. Once a prior action is rescinded, it can then be tabled. You could lay the action on the table and take it up at a future meeting. A motion to rescind has to be seconded and it would have to be adopted by a majority vote of the entire membership. Alderman Larson withdrew his motion. There was no objection. It was agreed that deficiencies were substantial. MOTION BY ALDERMAN VOLLMAR, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN ROSS TO RESCIND THE PRIOR MOTION TO STORE BOATS IN THE MARINA. **Motion carried unanimously.** MOTION BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO TABLE. There was no second. Alderman Ross said the reason he didn't second the motion is because he did research on this subject and 1) John had no objection, which he found to be untrue, 2) He is a boat owner and to store a boat and work on it, the parking lot would not be a place to do that, and 3) He checked with the insurance company and what we are planning to do, the boat owner would not be covered for damage because we did not have a secured storage area with an 8-foot solid fencing. Alderman Haacke said the reason he made a motion to table at the last meeting was because we didn't have ample opportunity to get appropriate input from people. Since that time, he talked to boat owners. We weren't addressing to see what the BID District's opinion was. Boat storage on the lakefront is not what we want in the City of Port Washington. Alderman Larson withdrew his motion to table. There was no objection. He voted for it two weeks ago because it was a customer service issue, but he is now changing his mind. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HAACKE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN ROSS TO REJECT THE STORAGE OF BOATS IN THE MARINA. **Motion carried unanimously.** Alderman Ross mentioned that we should check into putting videos on our website for our constituents who cannot watch the proceedings. City Administrator Grams will talk to our technology consultant Ron Voigt at the County.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS** – City Administrator Grams reported that the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce is hold their Annual Awards Dinner on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at Memories Ballroom. The Engineering Department is up for the City Beautification Award for downtown streetscaping.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPERANCES** – John Weinrich, New Port Shores – Wanted to clarify the boat storage issue. He said, yes, he does not oppose storage, but not in front of his windows.

**ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION BY ALDERMAN LARSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN ROSS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AT 9:03 P.M.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**