

**MINUTES
CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 3, 2009**

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 Mike Ehrlich, Paul Neumyer, Jim Vollmar, Burt Babcock, Tom Hudson, David Larson and Dan Becker. Also present: City Administrator Mark Grams, City Engineer Rob Vanden Noven, City Attorney Eberhardt, and City Planner Randy Tetzlaff. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting – October 20, 2009
- B. Operator's License Applications – None

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BABCOCK, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BECKER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

- A. Mayor Huebner read a proclamation honoring "Kiwanis Peanut Day" fundraiser on November 7th.

OFFICERS'/STAFF REPORT

- A. Update On Projects:
 - 1. Veteran's Memorial Park Restrooms – The project is complete and open for business. There are a few punch list items to finish.
 - 2. North Beach Stairs – Complete with the exception of the railing. If the weather is decent, it could be finished by as early as this Friday. It turned out to be a real successful project and is finishing a few days ahead of schedule.
 - 3. Marina Floating Docks – Project is a little delayed. They had problems pulling out the pilings so they had to bring in a diver. The floating docks are on site and ready to put in as soon as the old fixed piers are out.
 - 4. The crack sealers were in town today. If the weather is good tomorrow, they should finish. If not, they will be back. Project should be done this week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES – None

COMMITTEES

A. Finance and License Committee

- 1. Review Proposed 2010 City Departmental Budgets – Alderman Hudson went over some of the high points. He said we are trying to keep our City services where they are and keep our costs down. All Department Heads have been asked to hold to a zero percent increase in their costs and they've done so. Any increases in our budget are due to cost of fuel, electricity, natural gas and supplies. City Administrator Grams talked about the assessed valuation and that there are a couple of expenditures that we need to look at putting back into the budget that aren't there now. One is for the Water Park – new grates at \$8,500. The last item is a State mandate. All emergency service expenditures cannot be below the 2009 level for 2010 unless there are some extenuating circumstances. In our budgets, the Police and EMT's are fine, but our Fire Department Budget is coming in a little over \$1,000 less for next year than what it was in 2009 so they actually have to prop that budget up by \$1,000. Unfortunately, in the paperwork from the State explaining the program,

they didn't really come out and say exactly what the criteria was for lowering the budget, so it's basically their call if it's legitimate or not. Alderman Hudson gave his commendation to Mr. Grams, the Mayor and all the Department Heads for coming up with this budget. Alderman Becker echoed Alderman Hudson's comment. He said everyone did a lot of work and we should be proud. Mayor Huebner said the Finance and License Committee spent long hours going over the budgets with all the Department Heads and they should be thanked. City Administrator Grams indicated that the public hearing and final approval of the budget is November 17th.

2. Discuss City Employee Health Insurance Plan – Alderman Hudson said basically we're looking at going with our current carrier, Group Health Trust and they've given us a little better plan called the Choice Plus Network Plan. The City Clerical Union has voted on it and opted for this plan. The good news is that it shaves around \$80,000 off for all City Employees. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO APPROVE THE CHOICE PLUS NETWORK PLAN OF GROUP HEALTH TRUST AS THE CITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN. **Motion carried unanimously.**
3. Submission Of Energy Conservation Grant – Alderman Hudson reviewed a report prepared by Energy Performance Specialists who did an audit of various City buildings for lighting and have determined there is an opportunity for tremendous savings on our energy and improvement in the quality of lighting, and reduction in maintenance costs. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN EHRLICH TO SUBMIT AN ENERGY CONSERVATION GRANT APPLICATION. **Motion carried unanimously.**
4. Update On 2009 City Budgets – Alderman Hudson gave an update on the 2009 City Budgets. City Administrator Grams said that we are now looking at expending an additional \$11,000 in various Park & Rec accounts. He indicated that at this time no other Department Head has indicated they need to make any other adjustment to their anticipated 2009 expenditures. He said he would give the Council a better update at the next meeting.
5. Approve BID Assessments – Alderman Hudson indicated that the BID Budget is identical to last year and the BID Tax Rate for this year will stay the same as last year's tax rate. Thus, there will be no negative impact on the BID businesses. MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BECKER TO APPROVE THE BID ASSESSMENTS. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Traffic Safety Committee

1. Ordinance 2009-15 (No Parking On Portion Of City Streets) **1st Reading** – Rob Vanden Noven reviewed the ordinance regarding the No Parking areas on streets in the St. Mary's Church area.
2. Ordinance 2009-16 (Installation Of Stop Sign) **1st Reading** – Rob Vanden Noven indicated that St. Mary's had approached him about putting a stop sign at E. Van Buren where it intersects with N. Powers Street. It had also been recommended by the Police Department.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

A. Plan Commission

1. Ordinance 2009-17 (Creation Of A Conservancy District Overlay) **1st Reading** – City Planner Randy Tetzlaff gave an overview of the proposed ordinance.

2. Ordinance 2009-14 (Membership On Design Review Board) **2nd Reading** – MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BECKER TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2009-14. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Board of Public Works

1. Approve Request For Private Well Permit – MOTION BY ALDERMAN BABCOCK, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN NEUMYER TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A PRIVATE WELL PERMIT FOR 1501 N. WISCONSIN STREET. **Motion carried unanimously.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 2009-13 (Modifications To Sewer Service Charges) **2nd Reading** – MOTION BY ALDERMAN HUDSON, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN EHRLICH TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2009-13. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve Appointment Of Election Inspectors – MOTION BY ALDERMAN BABCOCK, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN NEUMYER TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION INSPECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 1-1-10 TO 12-31-12. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Approve Closing Streets For Christmas Parade – Mayor Huebner said that Barb Kobishop and Jim Olson would like to invite the Aldermen to participate in the Christmas Parade. Please let Mark or Rose know if you plan on attending. MOTION BY ALDERMAN VOLLMAR, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BECKER TO APPROVE THE CLOSING OF STREETS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH. **Motion carried unanimously.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – Alderman Hudson said his wife and him are hosting a chess and scrabble playing group this Saturday in the Library Community Room from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Rob Vanden Noven reported that there would be a public informational meeting next Tuesday, November 10th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for the 2010 Division, Chestnut, and Wisconsin Street improvements.

City Attorney Eberhardt reported that the Port Harbor Investments, LLC did file a written answer to the City's lawsuit on Friday afternoon. The LLC admits they own the building, they admit that the renovation on the building is incomplete and they admit that they were served notices and orders by the City in regards to the premise and repairing it. They deny any code violations, that the building is a public nuisance, that the property is blighted, that the property offends the aesthetic character of the neighborhood and that the property produces blight within the neighborhood. So the forthcoming event is that the lawsuit goes on.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/APPEARANCES – None

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION BY ALDERMAN BECKER, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LARSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AT 8:19 P.M. **Motion carried unanimously.**