

MINUTES

EAU CLAIRE CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

City Council Chamber

4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Council President Weld called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present in-person: Jill Christopherson and Terry Weld. The following Council Members were present remotely: Emily Anderson, Emily Berge, Catherine Emmanuelle, Jeremy Gragert, David Klinkhammer, John Lor, Andrew Werthmann and Mai Xiong. The following Council Member was absent: Kate Beaton.

UPDATE

Update by Interim City Manager Solberg regarding City operations and local response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council Member Beaton joined the meeting remotely.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Council considered a resolution adopting the Consent Agenda for the following items of routine business on Tuesday, March 23, 2021:

- Adopting the Consent Agenda.
- Approving the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Council Legislative Session.
- Authorizing Tangled Up in Hue to conduct the Artist Market of Eau Claire on Saturdays from May 29 - October 9, 2021 in Phoenix Park.
- Authorizing Keprios Investments, LLC to conduct the Here We Grow Again Sale event at Hobbs Ice Arena on the following dates in 2021: April 25, 26, 27 & 28 and September 16, 17, 18 & 19.
- Granting new bartender licenses.
- Granting a transfer from place to place of a Combination Class B Fermented Malt Beverage and Intoxicating Liquor license of Nunez Inc., d/b/a Cancun Mexican Grill from the location at 2120 Highland Avenue to 805 S. Hastings Way, Alejandro Nunez, agent.
- Granting a Change of Agent for the Combination Class B Intoxicating Liquor & Fermented Malt Beverage license of Longform LLC, d/b/a The Oxbow Hotel/Restaurant, 508/516 Galloway Street, from Nicholas Meyer to Kent Buell.
- Authorizing a public hearing regarding the City's intention to order the repair and installation of city-wide sidewalk and curb and gutter according to Section 66.0907, Wisconsin Statutes, at three locations beginning with 1430 Lee Street, Parcel No. 13-1388.

Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member Beaton "to adopt the consent resolution." Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATION

President Weld read a proclamation recognizing the programs known as TRIO (which provide services for students whose parents have not graduated from college, students from low-income households and students with disabilities) for their ability to motivate, assist, retain and graduate eligible students, and proclaiming April 7, 2021 as TRIO Day.

President Weld read a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 5-11, 2021 as National Public Health Week 2021 in the city of Eau Claire and calling upon the people of Eau Claire to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's national theme, "Building Bridges to Better Health."

GRANT

The City Council considered a resolution authorizing the Fire Department to accept grant monies from The Presto Foundation to purchase three gear extractors. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Berge and seconded by Council Member Christopherson "to adopt the resolution." Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member Christopherson "to reconsider" a final resolution (No. 2021-81) approving the project and levying special assessments for street and utility improvements on Wildwood Court, Woodridge Drive to North End. Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

The City Council reconsidered a final resolution approving the project and levying special assessments for street and utility improvements on Wildwood Court, Woodridge Drive to North End. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Emmanuelle and seconded by Council Member Gragert "to adopt the resolution." Said motion failed by the following vote: Aye: Council Members Klinkhammer and Weld. Nay: Council Members Anderson, Beaton, Berge, Christopherson, Emmanuelle, Gragert, Lor, Werthmann and Xiong.

SIDEWALK REPAIR

The City Council considered a resolution ordering the repair of city-wide sidewalk and curb and gutter according to Section 66.0907, Wisconsin Statutes, at 3012 White Oak Lane, Parcel No. 14-1933. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Klinkhammer and seconded by Council Member Lor "to adopt the resolution." Said motion failed by unanimous vote.

0 GALLOWAY STREET

The City Council considered a resolution authorizing a development and purchase agreement for City-owned property located at 0 Galloway Street (Parcel 10-1161-A). Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Werthmann and seconded by Council Member Xiong “to adopt the resolution.”

Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Werthmann and seconded by Council Member Beaton “to amend the purchase agreement” such that Section 4(b) is amended to read as follows:

(b) Pedestrian and Bike Trail. The Developer shall at its sole cost and expense construct a 10-foot wide pedestrian and bike trail and linear public green space starting at Galloway Street along the western edge of parcel 10-1161-D and the western shoreline of the Eau Claire River toward River Prairie Road together with a landscape design that is coordinated with the Development and includes a three phased targeted removal of certain existing trees and vegetation, as determined by the City Forester, along said shoreline to improve the safety and visibility of the same. The pedestrian and bike trail shall be black top from Galloway Street along the western edge of parcel 10-1161-D, from that point the trail shall be rough-graded by Developer. Improvements shall be reviewed prior to construction and accepted as-built by the City Engineer.

Said motion failed by the following vote: Aye: Council Members Anderson, Beaton and Werthmann. Nay: Council Members Berge, Christopherson, Emmanuelle, Gragert, Klinkhammer, Lor, Weld and Xiong.

A vote was then taken “to adopt the resolution.” Said motion passed by the following vote: Aye: Council Members Anderson, Beaton, Berge, Christopherson, Emmanuelle, Klinkhammer, Lor, Weld, Werthmann and Xiong. Nay: Council Member Gragert.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT CLAIMS

The City Council considered a resolution approving Settlement of Claimed Excessive Property Tax Assessments for Various City Properties. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member Beaton “to adopt the resolution.” Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

ANNUAL REPORT

The City Council considered a resolution accepting the Storm Water 2020 Annual Report. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Berge and seconded by Council Member Christopherson “to adopt the resolution.” Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

The City Council considered a resolution approving the City of Eau Claire Carson Park Master Plan. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Emmanuelle and seconded by Council Member Gragert “to adopt the resolution.” Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The City Council considered a resolution endorsing reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program by the Wisconsin State Legislature. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Werthmann and seconded by Council Member Weld “to adopt the resolution.”

Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Werthmann and seconded by Council Member Christopherson “to amend the resolution” by 1) removing the following clause: “WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has submitted a budget request to the Governor’s Office proposing a ten-year reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, funded at \$50 million per year;” and 2) modifying the second Be It Resolved clause as follows: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Eau Claire does support reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for ten years and \$70 million per year ~~close consideration of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) budget request of \$50 million per year.~~ Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

A friendly amendment was offered by Council Member Gragert to add the Joint Finance Committee to the list of recipients of the resolution in the last Be It Further Resolved clause. Said friendly amendment was accepted by Council Members Werthmann and Weld, with no objection voiced by Council.

A vote was then taken “to adopt the resolution” as amended. Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE

The City Council considered a resolution condemning violence against the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American community. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Xiong and seconded by Council Member Werthmann “to adopt the resolution.”

Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Xiong and seconded by Council Member Berge “to amend the resolution” by 1) including other City Departments in the Be it Resolved clause that references the Police Department; and 2) adding the following clause: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire City Council recognizes the work of local organizations that provide culturally competent services to our community and encourages community leaders to seek out services and help from these organizations in providing more culturally competent services and gaining a better understanding.” Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

A vote was then taken “to adopt the resolution” as amended. Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

ZONING

The Council considered an ordinance rezoning property located at the south end of Sculy Drive, east of Highway 53, from C-3P to R-3P and to adopt the general development plan for a multi-family and duplex development (Z-1684-21). Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Klinkhammer and seconded by Council Member Lor “to adopt the ordinance.” Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Council considered an ordinance rezoning property located at 3536 Folsom Street from R-1 to R-2P and to adopt the general development plan for a twin home development (Z-1685-21). Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Christopherson and seconded by Council Member Klinkhammer “to postpone” to the Public Hearing and Legislative Council meeting dates immediately following Plan Commission consideration. Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

PARKLET & PARKLET CAFE

The City Council had first reading on an ordinance amending Chapter 13.12 entitled “Street Use” by creating a section entitled “Parklet and Parklet Café” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Eau Claire.

SCOOTER SHARE

The City Council had first reading on an ordinance creating Chapter 5.65 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Eau Claire entitled “Scooter Share.”

ZONING

The City Council had first reading on an ordinance rezoning property located at 2300 1st Street from P-Public to R-3P and to adopt the general development plan with site plan for a multi-family development (Z-1682-21).

The City Council had first reading on an ordinance rezoning properties located on the 900 block of Menomonie Street from RM to R-4P and to adopt the general development plan and amend the existing R-4P for multi-family apartments (Z-1686-21).

The City Council had first reading on an ordinance rezoning property located on Gateway Drive from C-2P to R-3P and to adopt the general development plan for multi-family apartments (Z-1687-21).

The City Council had first reading on an ordinance amending the general development plan for multi-family apartments up to 48 units for R-3P zoning for property located at the southwest corner of the North Crossing and Mill Run Road (Z-1679-20 Amd).

CLOSED SESSION

Council President Weld announced that upon a motion duly made and seconded, the City Council may go into closed session to confer with City staff to discuss terms and conditions and set the negotiating strategy regarding potential development agreements for the potential construction of an expanded event center and associated public improvements and private development for the Sonnentag project located on Menomonie Street with UW-Eau Claire, Visit Eau Claire and Blugold Real Estate Foundation, Inc. The closed session is authorized under s. 19.85(1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, for competitive or bargaining reasons. Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Werthmann and seconded by Council Member Xiong to “convene into closed session.” Said motion passed by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION

Thereupon a motion was offered by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member Klinkhammer to “return to open session.” Said motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection.

Adjournment: March 23, 2021

Time: 9:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Terry L. Weld
Council President

/s/ Carrie L. Riepl
City Clerk