

September 1, 2015 **September Council**

The regular meeting of the Colby Common Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mayor James Schmidt. On roll call: Hamm, O'Brien, T Schmidt, Thieme, Lynn, Oestreich, Hederer and Kaiser. Lynn arrived at 6:33 P.M. Also present were Mayor James Schmidt, Clerk Connie Gurtner, DPW Higley and Engineer Mike Voss.

Agenda was posted by the clerk. The agenda will stand as the order of the meeting.

Minutes of the August 4, 2015 council meeting were pre-read and reviewed. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by O'Brien to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Financial Statement and Bills were discussed. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Lynn to approve the bills in the amounts as follows: General Fund \$638,192.71; Water Department \$232,012.86; Sewer Department \$17,654.29; Net payroll \$18,922.72. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Public Comment: DPW Higley asked the council what his job should be in light of the editorial "A Better Way". The council feels that both DPW Higley and Clerk Gurtner should always keep the council informed.

Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission met on August 10th.

The commission approved minutes and expenditures with one correction. The language of "from K-9 budget" should replace "K-9 fund".

Under purchase a newsquad car, two bids were received to replace the Expedition, which now has 100,000 miles on it. The first bid was from Ewald in the amount of \$28,065.00 for an Interceptor which is pursuit rated vehicle. Colby- Chrysler submitted a bid for a Dodge Durango for \$27,000, which is not pursuit rated. Both vehicles are all wheel drive and have similar gas mileage. It will take approximately 60-90 days to auction off the Expedition. The commission moved to purchase the Dodge Durango from Colby Chrysler in the amount of \$27,000. Hederer looked through his minutes and found that the price was actually \$27,900. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Lynn to approve the purchase of the Dodge Durango from Colby Chrysler in the amount of \$27,900. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Under K-9 set aside funds, it was stated that there are new guidelines for the K-9 program. Two officers need to work at the same time as the officers cannot delay a traffic stop. This makes utilizing the drug dog more difficult, but it is not impossible. It will be 2-3 years before there will be an officer ready to obtain a new dog.

Under Ride Along Policy for Squad Cars, it was stated that currently the Department has an informal policy. Alderman Anders obtained a copy of the Owen Police Department's Ride Along Policy and will also get one from Clark County. The Owen copy was distributed. Chief Bauer will also review the Lexipol policy and will provide this at the next meeting.

Under Chief's report, Chief Bauer stated that an officer is now back from medical leave. The department did the front end work on a search warrant when working with Clark County, 3 people were arrested due to finding drugs and guns in the home. There were no problems at First City Days, Colby Cheese Days or the Pulls although 2 were jailed. There were no loud noise complaints. The hiring of Part time help is coming along.

Parks/Rec/Recycling Committee met on August 17th.

Comments from the Public: John Feiten had reported on a party that he had down at the South 6th Street Park. They had connected to the hydrant and used about 2,500 gallons of water and created a large slip and slide on the hill. He was wondering if this would be something that could continue as a summer program. DPW Higley stated that he didn't want this to turn into something bigger where we may run into an issue with the excessive use of water.

Building a Shelter in South 1st Street Park: DPW Higley was hoping to have a price for the shelter for the meeting, but he wasn't able to get it. The option of the city providing the supplies and hiring a contractor to do the work was discussed. The shelter size would be 14' x 14' and would be on a 20' x 20' slab. DPW Higley will have a material list and cost ready for the September council meeting. Motion was made by Kaiser, seconded by Hamm to purchase the supplies for the shelter at a cost of \$1,939.10. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Landscaping of South 1st Street Park: DPW Higley would like to get Abegglen to work and seed lawn at the South 1st Street Park and the Ballpark for a cost of \$1,500. The committee approved the hiring of Abegglen to do the lawn at the South 1st Street Park and the Ballpark not to exceed \$1,500. DPW Higley also asked what the committee wants to do with the shrubs around the gazebo. He said that it looks terrible and would like something done with it. Motion was made by Thieme, seconded by Hamm to approve the hiring of Abegglen to do the lawn at the South 1st Street Park and the Ballpark not to exceed \$1,500 and to hire K & S Excavating and Landscaping to do landscaping in the Center and South 1st Street Parks for \$3,543. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Park Rental Policy: The committee discussed the issue of a church group using the ballpark late into the night. It was discussed that other municipalities charge churches to use facilities. The committee made the motion to amend the policy to not exempt churches and religious groups from the rental fee of City of Colby facilities. The committee will work on this policy some more to make sure that we include all situations.

Other 2015 Projects: DPW Higley said that the new banners don't fit the brackets. The poles are 60" from center to center and the banners are only 59 3/4". He has contacted Temple and they are sending a sample banner to fit and measure to see if the new banners can be fixed to work. DPW Higley will order chips for all the playground equipment. Kaiser asked how far the power goes to the south ball field parking lot. There was discussion on lighting in the parking area, but the committee didn't think it would be necessary.

2016 Park Budget: The committee talked about keeping the 2016 budget low for next year. DPW Higley suggested a sidewalk from the west side of the concession stand to the shelter for handicapped accessibility. Thieme asked about a higher fence for the area right in front of the shelter to prevent injuries from foul balls. Thieme also asked about a dog park to be considered in next year's budget.

City Planning Committee met on August 26th.

Fire Department Consolidation with Abbotsford and Dorchester: There have been three meetings with the other departments in the area and discussion was had about consolidating the departments into one. There could be a lot of cost savings if the three departments were to consolidate. Chief Ross Rannow explained to the committee how the consolidation would work and the benefits to the departments. The committee recommends moving forward with exploring the consolidation process. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Thieme to move forward with exploring the consolidation process. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Library use of council chambers: Mayor Schmidt explained to the committee that when the council chambers were remodeled that it was supposed to be strictly for council meetings and other meetings pertaining to city business. He stated that he felt the room should not be used for other things such as library activities and should always be available if a last minute meeting comes up. Vicky Calmes stated that she does schedule the dates she needs the council room space ahead of time. She also stated that she had previously asked the council if she could occasionally use the council chambers for overflow and community and library events and they stated she could. Some committee members felt that if the room is not occupied and the library books the room in advance that it should be ok.

Update on Library Facility Options: The city has hired Ratsch Engineering out of Neillsville to explore four different options for expanding the Library. The four options being explored are: Moving the library building to the old clinic building; Letting the library have the current city hall space and the current city hall offices moving to the old clinic building; Adding on to the current library building and building a brand new library in a different location. The costs and scope of work for each option will be presented. Currently the biggest addition that could be added on to the library would be 20 ft. x 92 ft. staying within the setbacks. Some of the library board members asked if a variance was possible so the addition could be built right to the lot line. The library board members again expressed their concerns and reasons for not wanting to move the library to the old clinic building. The library also has an independent engineer looking into options for expanding the library. Both sets of options should be completed hopefully by the end of September. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Hederer to hire Ratsch at a cost of \$2,000 to explore the four library expansion options. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Electrical Bill for JH Larson for Electrical Installed at Pulling Track Location: It was discussed at the Colby Cheese days meeting last week about the city paying for an electrical bill totaling \$4,000 that is owed to J.H. Larson Company. The question now is who is going to pay for the bill because the Chamber does not have the money. The Chamber approached the Cheese Day's committee and asked if they would be willing to pay the bill out of the Cheese Day's money now and over the course of a couple years the profits from the Craft and Flea Market would pay the Cheese Day's account back. The committee wondered who at the Chamber gave permission for the work to be approved when it was that far over budget with no way to pay the bill. O'Brien felt it was a bad idea to pay the bill because it sets a precedent to pay bills that were not approved without set funds to pay for it. The committee felt it is not up to the City to bail the Chamber out. The committee moved to send the J.H. Larson bill back to the Chamber for them to pay. Motion was made by O'Brien, seconded by Oestreich to send the JH Larson bill in the amount \$4,000 back to the AbbyColby Chamber of Commerce for payment. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Mayor Schmidt: Mayor Schmidt reported on his Clark County Economic Development Corporation.

Mayor Schmidt read that the Colby Cemetery Association had met and wanting the two attorneys to come to an agreement. As of right now, the city has not seen any correspondence regarding this.

Clerk Gurtner: Clerk Gurtner reported on her WMCA training in LaCrosse.

DPW Harland Higley: The following building permits were issued: Larry Fildes, 605 N 4th Street, roof; Mike Kreciak, 105 S 6th Street, 11 x 16 utility shed; Howie Barr, 514 N 3rd Street, windows; Mark Jantz, 106 S 3rd Street, drywall, flooring, cabinets; Betty Kayhart, 501 S Main Street, new shed, metal roof on house, Shon Marcott, 308 North Street, new furnace; Bob Boeck, 427 Dehne Drive, new house; Adam Mielke, 209 N 3rd Street, expanding entry way into garage for closet.

DPW Higley reported on the pumpage of water and well levels for August 2015

Concrete work is done in the parks. Wausau Street is complete. The W Washington and S 3rd Street project is well on its way.

Engineer Voss: The brine tank was installed today for the Well #14 and #15 project. He anticipates no issues with the project being on by the September 30, 2015 deadline.

Operator's License: Two applications were received for Operators' Licenses: Deborah Olson, 303 S 5th Street #B, Colby, WI - motion was made by Kaiser, seconded by Hederer to approve; Duane Webb, 515 N 3rd Street, Colby, WI - motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Oestreich to approve. Motions carried with a voice vote.

Picnic Licenses: The city received a picnic license application: Knights of Columbus Council 5127, St. Mary's Parking Lot, September 13, 2015. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Kaiser to approve the picnic licenses. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Cider License Application: The city received a cider license application: ProVision Partners, 702 S Division St. Motion was made by T Schmidt, seconded by Thieme to approve the Resolution 9-2015 as follows. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Fire Department Request for use of Crushed Concrete: The Colby Fire Department has a training facility down near the WWTP and is asking to use some the crushed concrete for the facility. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Hamm to give the Colby Fire Department crushed concrete to use at the facility. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Committee meetings for September: Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission will meet on September 14, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. at the Police Department. Public Works Committee will meet on September 15, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. Parks/Rec/Recycling Committee will meet on September 15, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Hamm to adjourn in closed session at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Approved _____
James W Schmidt, Mayor

Attest _____
Connie Gurtner, Clerk