

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2016
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station meeting room located at 50 Green Street. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	Alderman Mark Koenig
Senior Alderman Renny Perry	Alderman Mathew Chabot
Alderman Lynn Donnelly	City Manager Mel Hawley
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	City Clerk Joan Devine
Alderman Jeffrey Fritz	Ian Huizenga

WARRANT: The Warrant totaling \$285,704.11 was circulated for review and signatures of approval.

MINUTES: Minutes to the September 13, 2016 meeting were deferred to the next regular meeting of the City Council.

WINTER PARKING BAN ORDINANCE: Senior Alderman Perry advised he has prepared some language for consideration regarding an amendment to the so-called winter parking ban ordinance. The proposal basically would allow the Police Chief to issue a permit to those businesses that start early and need parking in the downtown district prior to 6:30 a.m. Alderman Chabot felt the City Council shouldn't do anything to the ordinance, leave the onus on the vehicle or property owners, and allow the Police Department to use common sense. Alderman Lynn Donnelly felt we needed to leave the parking ban ordinance as it is. Senior Alderman Perry stated he was not worried about renters; he was looking at business owners having an exemption so that their patrons did not get ticketed. Alderman Koenig felt when there was no snow there should be no ban. He pointed out that the word "shall" in the ordinance could be changed to "may" but felt the Police Chief would most likely prefer the word "shall". It was the consensus of the City Council to leave the ordinance as it stands.

ALCOHOL USE ON CITY PROPERTY ORDINANCE: The ordinance, Chapter 12 Section 4, provides a procedure to obtain a permit from the City Manager to possess alcohol on City property, advised Manager Hawley. Because the City Council adopted a policy to keep the City Green tobacco free, he wanted to make sure everyone was aware of this ordinance. The Vergennes Partnership is having Chili and Chocolate on the Green in October and are considering having some local brewers offering alcoholic beverages, he stated. Senior Alderman Perry advised it is getting more common to offer alcohol at these events; the State manages these outside consumption permits. City Manager Hawley stated that if there are no issues for anyone, he will approve permits that are in compliance with the ordinance.

ALLOCATION FROM WATERSHED RECREATION RESERVE FUND: Manager Hawley shared proposals from three contractors to resurface the tennis courts. The courts were constructed in 1978 with no subsurface drainage resulting in recurring cracks. Resurfacing requires temperatures to be no lower than 50 degrees both day and night so this will not likely be

accomplished this season. Vermont Tennis Court Resurfacing has said they can patch cracks this fall and do the resurfacing in the spring. He recommended contracting with Vermont Tennis Court Resurfacing for an amount of \$11,472 which also incorporates pickleball courts. To pay for this improvement, as well as the recent valve replacement at the pool (\$5,333.92) and the authorized pool inspection (\$4,000), he recommended an allocation from the Watershed Recreation Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20,805.92. Alderman Bertrand moved to approve that allocation, seconded by Senior Alderman Perry, with all voting in favor.

VERGENNES REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE (VRLFC): City Manager Hawley advised the Vergennes Revolving Loan Fund Committee met prior to this meeting to review an application submitted by Lincoln Geronimo, LLC for a \$95,000 loan from the Vergennes Revolving Loan Fund to fund the expansion of Bar Antidote. It was understood that \$20,000 of the \$95,000 loan will be held back to pay Lincoln Geronimo, LLC's share (25%) of the sidewalk streetscape project. VRLFC recommended the City Council approved a 10-year loan in the amount of \$95,000 to Lincoln Geronimo, LLC with an interest rate set at 4%. Senior Alderman Perry moved to approved the recommendation and authorize the City Manager to engage the City Attorney to draw up necessary paperwork for a \$95,000 loan at 4% over a 10-year period. The motion was seconded by Alderman Bertrand with all voting in favor.

RAY E. DAVISON CAPITAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE: The Ray E. Davison Capital Equipment Committee met prior to this meeting. It was reported that they would like to purchase a mobile repeater that will improve longer range radio communications. Senior Alderman Perry moved to allocate up to \$5,000 from the Ray E. Davison Capital Equipment Fund for this purchase. Alderman Bertrand seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Hawley reported that two police cruisers have been ordered. \$60,000 of the total cost of the cruisers will be funded by the Water Tower Continuation Fund which will be paid back in FY2018 and FY2019. The professional auditors discovered a police fine journal entry was not processed so the approximate \$178,000 general fund surplus for FY2016 has grown to about \$180,000. They also recommended setting up accounting for the 3BD, LLC loan from the Water Tower Fund for their share of the streetscape project on South Maple Street.

Manager Hawley advised VOSHA inspectors arrived on the same day that our auditors were on site so they conducted their inspection with department heads. He stated they had a follow-up conference last week and were advised that we will likely be fined. The Public Works garage had a gallon container of red sewer dye that was not property labeled and the Sewer Department had several chemical handling and storage issues. There was also an open channel in the headworks building in front of the auger where rags get pulled up that they felt was a hazard.

There has been continued communication with Vermont Gas Systems regarding insurance, reported Manager Hawley. He said the license agreement will be issued once proper certificates of insurance are received.

COMMENTS: Mayor Benton advised a while back the City Council was reviewing the ordinances for potential amendments and never completed the task. Starting soon, he recommended the City Council deal with them one at a time until we get through them all.

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. by motion of Alderman Bertrand, seconded by Senior Alderman Perry, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Vergennes City Clerk