

Common Council Proceedings  
City of Portage

Regular Meeting  
Council Chambers  
City Municipal Building

March 26, 2015  
7:00 pm

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Tierney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Ald. Charles, Dodd, Hamburg, Havlovic, Klapper, Kutzke, Lynn, Maass, Montfort

Also Present: Mayor Tierney, City Clerk Moe, City Administrator Murphy, City Attorney Spankowski, Director of Business Development and Planning Sobiek (arrived at 7:37 p.m.), Director of Public Works/Utilities Manager Redelings, Engineering Technician Salmon, Finance Director Mohr, Manager of Parks and Recreation Kremer

Media Present: Craig Sauer from Portage Daily Register, Bill Welsh from Cable TV

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

No changes.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion by Klapper, second by Dodd to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 Common Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll with Charles abstaining.

**6. Consent Agenda**

Reports of Sub-Committees, Boards, and Commissions

Historic Preservation Commission meeting of March 17, 2015

Motion by Dodd, second by Charles to accept the report on the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

License Applications

Operator license applications for Melinda D. Anderson, Mariah N. Harvey, Kori K. Howell, Susan Klaila Neminske, and Samantha M. Shatto.

Motion by Dodd, second by Klapper to approve the license applications as presented. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

**7. Committee Reports**

Finance/Administration Committee meetings of March 9, 2015 and March 12, 2015

Motion by Dodd, second by Hamburg to approve Change Order No. 2 with McMahon Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$13,622.00 for the Digester Project. Motion carried 7 to 2 on call of roll with Lynn and Maass voting no.

Municipal Services and Utilities Committee meetings of March 12, 2015 (taken up at the Common Council meeting of March 12, 2015) and March 23, 2015

Motion by Klapper, second by Lynn to approve Change Order 1C to the contract with Ptaschinski Construction for the 2015 Street and Utility Projects making the adjusted contract amount \$1,193,797.39. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Park and Recreation Board, March 10, 2015

Motion by Maass, second by Charles to approve the agreement with Portage Girls Youth Fast Pitch Softball for the use of Veteran's Memorial Fields T-Ball Fields. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Motion by Maass, second by Charles to approve the agreement with Baraboo Area LaCrosse Association for the use of Sanborn Park. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Motion by Maass, second by Charles to approve the agreement with Portage Community School District on Development and Use of an Athletic Facility. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Plan Commission, March 16, 2015

Motion by Dodd, second by Klapper to approve reversionary deed transfers for City owned tax parcels no. 282 and 298 to Columbia County. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

**8. Old Business**

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 15-005 relative to Solid Waste (Commercial Garbage Collection) received its second reading and passed 7 to 2 on motion by Hamburg, second by Dodd and call of roll with Kutzke and Lynn voting no.

**9. New Business**

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 15-006 relative to Adopting an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin received its first reading. Motion by Lynn, second by Charles to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 15-006 relative to Adopting an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin. Motion carried 6 to 3 with Dodd, Klapper and Maass voting no. Ordinance No. 15-006 relative to Adopting an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin received its second reading by title only. Motion by Lynn, second by Charles to pass Ordinance No. 15-006 relative to Adopting an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map for the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin. Ald. Lynn explained that time was of the essence to suspend the rules and act on this Ordinance as the business moving to this site is currently located in the area of the county project. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Director of Business Development and Planning Sobiek arrived at 7:37 p.m.

Resolutions

Motion by Dodd, second by Klapper to read Resolution No. 15-021 relative to Awarding the Sale of \$3,675,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2015A; and Resolution No. 15-022 relative to Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$855,000 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015B of the City of Portage, Wisconsin, and Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Other Details with Respect to the Bonds by title only. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll. Dave Wagner, from Ehlers & Associates, went through the sale day report for each issue.

Resolution No. 15-021 relative to Awarding the Sale of \$3,620,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2015A was read by title only and adopted unanimously on motion by Dodd, second by Monfort and call of roll.

Resolution No. 15-022 relative to Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$855,000 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015B of the City of Portage, Wisconsin, and Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Other Details with Respect to the Bonds was read by title only and adopted unanimously on motion by Charles, second by Dodd and call of roll.

Resolution No. 15-023 relative to Approving a Permanent Easement for Storm Water conveyance was read and adopted unanimously on motion by Hamburg, second by Dodd and call of roll.

Consideration of award of contract for organizational staffing evaluation to GovHR USA

Motion by Dodd, second by Klapper to award of the contract for organizational staffing evaluation to GovHR USA. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll.

Correspondence has been received and filed from the Wisconsin Historical Society announcing the award of a historic preservation grant up to \$20,000 to conduct an intensive survey of historic properties.

Mayor's Comments

The American Heart Association National Walk Day is April 1, 2015.

P.A.T.H.S.

Mayor Tierney explained that he is looking to see if there is support from the council for the P.A.T.H.S. program he is supporting. According to Mayor Tierney, if the city waits to afford the program using traditional methods; the program won't happen. According to Mayor Tierney the program is essential for economic growth and well-being of the city.

Director of Public Works/Utilities Manager Redelings explained the conceptual plan.

City Administrator Murphy discussed the creation of a transportation facilities utility to fund the program. If a utility were created, street related activities including repair and maintenance of streets, and maintenance of sidewalks would be transferred from the General Fund to the Utility. A fee based on the lineal footage of a lot width abutting the street would be assessed against all parcels with improvements, including tax exempt parcels. Potential benefits of the utility include a large base, not just taxpayers; and funding would not be subject to levy limits. Potential drawbacks include the potential for legal challenges; the fee is not subject to income tax deduction; and the collection of delinquent fees as delinquent fees cannot be placed on the tax roll.

Manager of Parks and Recreation Kremer commented that this would be a great addition; but had concern with the maintenance and informed the council that his department cannot take on much more without adding staff.

Director of Business Development and Planning Sobiek commented that the program could attract businesses and individuals to Portage.

Marianne Hanson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce informed the council that the Chamber Board has endorsed the plan.

Frank Miller stated that P.A.T.H.S. would attract and retain businesses, promote a healthy lifestyle and show the city as growing and progressive.

It was the consensus of the entire council to go forward with the plan.

City Administrator's Report

The Spring Election is April 7th. Polls will be at the Library. Absentee voting is being conducted this week and next.

The special assessment process was explained.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Dodd, second by Charles to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously on call of roll at 9:34 p.m.

Marie A. Moe, WCPC, MMC  
City Clerk