

**ABSTRACT/SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF  
THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEWATER, WALWORTH AND  
JEFFERSON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN.**

May 3, 2016

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. MEMBERS PRESENT: Wellnitz, Goettl, Grady, Binnie, Singer, Langnes, Allen. MEMBERS ABSENT: None. LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT: Wallace McDonell.

It was moved by Binnie and seconded by Goettl to approve the Council Minutes of 4/19/16 and to acknowledge receipt and filing of the Irvin L. Young Library Board Minutes of 2/10/16; 2/15/16; and 3/21/16 and the Whitewater Police Department Consolidated Monthly Report for January, 2016. AYES: Wellnitz, Goettl, Grady, Binnie, Singer, Langnes, Allen. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**PAYMENT OF CITY INVOICES.** It was moved by Binnie and seconded by Goettl to approve payment of city invoices in the total sum of \$175,785.17. AYES: Wellnitz, Goettl, Grady, Binnie, Singer, Langnes, Allen. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**STAFF REPORTS.** Landmarks Chairperson Pat Blackmer presented a detailed report on the activities of the Landmarks Commission for calendar year 2015. Proclamations honoring Historic Preservation Month and recognizing Wisconsin Archaeology Month were presented by City Manager Clapper.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING LOCK BOX (A/K/A KNOX BOX) ORDINANCE.** Fire Department Inspector Josh Leverenz presented information regarding a Knox box key system. A very lengthy discussion, with varying viewpoints and concerns occurred with regard to adoption of the original Knox Box ordinance in 2015, as well as amendments proposed for 2016. Concerns regarding property owner privacy, Knox box key security, a policy indicating specifically who had access to the Knox box keys, and who specifically controlled the key system were discussed. Also of concern was the definition of who specifically was required to install Knox boxes, as well as a request for a definition for “places of assembly”. Numerous citizens / business owners spoke in opposition to the Knox box system. Fire Department representatives explained that precious time is wasted when the Fire Department attempts to locate the owner’s name and contact information (made much more difficult in today’s society when everyone uses a cell phone, and telephone books are no longer an easy option), then await the arrival of the property owner to enter. There are times when even a short wait could affect whether a life can be saved. Local physician Ken Kidd noted that it is very difficult on firefighters when their personal lives are constantly interrupted, and in light of the decline in volunteerism in general, reducing the amount of time these volunteers are on site would be beneficial. It was also noted that although several notifications have been sent to property owners, 160 of those notified have not complied with the 2015 ordinance. It was moved by Grady and seconded by Wellnitz to postpone action on the ordinance, subject to rewrite, and with the understanding that the current ordinance will not be enforced until such time as the ordinance is rewritten and adopted. (Ordinance review committee will consist of councilmembers Allen, Binnie and Wellnitz). Property owner Christ Christon requested information on obtaining a refund for the installation of the Knox Box, which may no longer be required. AYES: Wellnitz, Goettl, Grady, Binnie, Singer, Langnes, Allen. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

**SPRING SPLASH EVENT IN WHITEWATER.** City Manager Clapper and Police Chief Otterbacher distributed information regarding the Spring Splash event. Per Clapper, the event was organized by a company known as Wisconsin Red. The organization coordinates and advertises all aspects of the event, including specials at bars, social media campaigns, and bar hosted parties. The Police did know of the event and anticipated a day of heavily-populated college-age social gatherings. Chief Otterbacher indicated that UWW Police services were contacted and developed a contingency plan specific to staffing levels in the event mutual aid was needed throughout the event. Captain Meyer contacted Walworth

County a week before the event to request additional personnel. Meyer was informed that Walworth County was at shift minimums and they would be unable to designate a squad specifically for patrol in Whitewater. Jefferson County Sheriff's office was also contacted during the week leading to Spring Splash, and offered to request assistance from deputies as they were able, and have squads driving down Main Street to create a greater law enforcement presence. Forty-six hours of overtime were expended during a 24-hour period, at a cost of \$2,510.25 for just overtime. Officers responded to 104 calls for service and engaged in 27 traffic stops. It was noted that representatives of the city, including Councilmember Goettl, have been working with the University since move-in, to discuss proactive measures to address alcohol and inappropriate signage during move in. The scope of the meeting has broadened to include Spring Splash and other large scale events. It was noted that there is currently no permit that would be required for this type of event. Several citizens expressed dismay with some of the poor behavior exhibited during the event. Kori Oberle of Boone Court indicated that she returned to Whitewater after being gone 30 years, and no longer recognized her hometown. She also indicated that what the community as a whole experienced during Spring Splash, residents in her area experience on a regular basis. Resident John Wilberding expressed great dissatisfaction with house party conduct during the event. Further information will be forthcoming once the "Move In" Committee meets on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR OPERATIONAL AND STAFFING STUDY TO EVALUATE MANAGEMENT, STRUCTURE AND STAFFING LEVELS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

Councilmember Wellnitz requested that the Common Council look into the possibility of completion of a study that would review Police Department operations management, organizational structure, and staffing levels, and to identify opportunities for improvement. Councilmembers indicated that this was *not* to be construed as concern for how the Police Department is operating or managed under current leadership. Wellnitz noted that this study has not been budgeted for in 2016. His recommendation was that a Request for Proposal document be created and brought forth to the Council, and if consensus was that a study should be done, the study can be budgeted for in 2017. He reminded Council that it will take some time to complete the study and distribute it, noting that the Fire Department study took well over a year. It was agreed that the City staff pursue the creation of a Request for Proposal and obtain some pricing options. Further discussion will occur when staff has completed their assignment.

**COUNCILMEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.**

Councilmember Langnes expressed concerns over the poor condition of Carriage Drive and questioned who was responsible for the upkeep on that. Councilmember Grady requested a possible installation of a stop sign on Franklin Street, at the entrance to Fairhaven, to slow traffic. Grady noted it is very difficult to see when parking occurs near the intersection. Councilmember Goettl noted that there will be an update at the Council's first meeting in June regarding the Committee consisting of UWW representatives and citizens relating to various events (incl. spring splash). Goettl also requested discussion and possible direction regarding the creation of a policy on how to coordinate sharing of information with property owners regarding matters that affect them (most recent example – water shut off with Center Street project) and develop a uniform policy for non-emergency situations. Councilmember Allen would like an update as to why there is no second lift of asphalt on Street(s) in the Water's Edge South area. Allen also expressed concern over piles of construction debris located in this area. Allen also requested that in the near future, information relating to how the CSO / NSO program operates, as well as details as to how these hires are trained be presented. Allen also requested discussion regarding diminished code enforcement levels. Langnes requested information relating to Spring Splash arrest statistics.

**ADJOURNMENT.** It was moved by Goettl and seconded by Binnie to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, Clerk

