

The regular meeting of the Greenbush City Council was held May 20, 2019, in the Greenbush Library Conference Room at 5:30 pm.

Members present: Council Members Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Others Present: Kara Heggedal, Mary Stauffenecker, Anita Locken

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Greenbush Community Partners

Greenbush Community Partners (GCP) has had feedback from surveys concerning a community request for a walking path. One potential location for the walking path is from Welcome Park along the river and back around to Old Ridge Road. GCP is wondering if this is a project that the city would be interested in starting to look into whether or not this would be feasible. This is a project that the city engineers could help us with. There are grant opportunities for this type of project. GCP would be willing to help raise funds if the city could not get grants to cover the whole project. Clerk-Treasurer Locken was directed to check with WSN to see if they will complete a feasibility study for this project.

GCP was also wondering if the council would be willing to let the group host a Garden Herb drink class in the Shelter. This class might be for both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Far North Spirits would be the presenter. If they have a catering permit that would be the easiest way to license this class. A catering permit can move around the state. We need to check on what requirements that have for using one in the city.

M/S/P Dennis Filer/Shawn Walsh to allow Greenbush Community Partners to hold a Garden Herb drink class in the shelter pending on Clerk-Treasurer Locken double checking on the catering license approval that is needed.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

The 4th if July celebration is getting a reboot this year. The celebration will be held July 3-7. Friday night the plans are to have a street dance and beer garden in the shelter. GCP is wondering if the city would be willing to pay for part of the band costs. Council will need to pass a resolution allowing alcohol on the street as part of a city festival. GCP is thinking of advertising the event through The Times. That paper has a larger area it serves, and you can choose the area that you want your advertising to reach.

Thursdays in the Park will be starting May 30th and will run through Labor Day. The zipline is almost complete.

Main St 4 Way Stops

The city received numerous complaints on Facebook concerning the removal of the four-way stops on Main St N. No one that complained on Facebook came to the meeting to voice their opinion. Most of the complaints were that traffic is traveling too fast in residential areas. Council was provided the recommendations that contained the four-way stop removal. These recommendations were approved by the council last year. Council also received the Retroreflectivity Policy that deals with traffic signs. The removal of the other stop signs has been put on hold until council can discuss the matter. A couple of the council members are going to talk to the individuals that voiced an opinion on Facebook. The main reason the signs were recommended for removal was to allow all traffic traveling North and South not to have to stop. The four-way stop on 5th St S was removed for this reason a couple of years ago. Council discussed the fact that a lot of people feel we have an enforcement issue and not a sign issue. To hire another full-time police officer, it would cost the city over \$100,000 per year. Council decided to obtain further public opinion on this matter. An ad is to be put in the newspaper stating that the council is evaluating the number of stop signs in the city. The ad is to ask that anyone in the city that wants to voice an opinion on this matter is to send a signed letter to the city office or to attend the next city council meeting. A map with the location of the four-way stops to be removed to be part of the ad. The four-way removal is to be expanded from the approved recommendation to include the removal of all four-way stops on streets that run North and South.

Lumber Yard Semis on 5th St N

A citizen has complained that the semis delivering product to Greenbush Lumber are driving on 5th St N. This street is not designed for semi traffic and is signed for no truck traffic. Mayor Sather will talk with Jerry Maxwell to ask him to talk to his delivery drivers asking them to not drive on 5th St N.

Regional Workforce Participation

Regional major employers have met to see if a plan to bring more people to our area could be accomplished. They are working on a regional promotion of our area stretching from Baudette to Greenbush. One of their ideas is a regional website. Greenbush activities could be promoted on this site if we participate. There will be some upcoming meetings to get more information on what this could potentially cost the city.

Fire Pay Request

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Dennis Filer to approve the fire pay requests for TeJay Wojchowski and Landon Olson's work at the East Park DNR fire.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Cell Phone Policy Update due to Hands-Free Law

With the new hands-free law that will go into place August 1st, we need to look at updating our cell phone policy to address this issue. When the law goes into place, drivers will not be allowed to hold their cell phone while driving. A hands-free headset can be worn to take calls.

M/S/P Shawn Walsh/Eric Etherington to approve the purchase of hands-free headset for public works employees, so we comply with the hands-free law change.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

FY2018 Audit

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Dennis Filer to approve the FY 2018 Audit as presented by Hoffman, Phillip, and Knutson PLLC.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

2019 Water Project

The water project will be complete within 2 to 2 ½ weeks. If the bonding bill passes the state legislature, the city could receive a grant for up to 80% of this project. An email will be sent to the council when any information on the grant is received. If this summer is dry like last year residents affected by this project can request that the council give them a break for water usage to cover watering their lawn where the grass was disturbed.

Potential Changes to Clerk-Treasurer Position

Tabled for the June regular meeting

Job Descriptions

Tabled for the June regular meeting

City-County/Shop

Tabled- there is no update.

Pool House

A bid packet for this project needs to be formulated. The lifeguards have been hired for the summer and work has begun for the startup of the pool.

Citizen Complaints/Concerns

Committee Reports

Closed Meeting

M/S/P Dennis Filer/Eric Etherington to close the regular meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) to discuss medical data and or an individual's medical records as governed by Minnesota Statutes 144.29-144.298.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Regular Meeting closed at 6:55 pm.

The regular meeting reopened at 6:57 pm.

M/S/P Dennis Filer/Shawn Walsh to close the regular meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 Subd. 3(a) to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Regular Meeting closed at 6:57 pm.

The regular meeting reopened at 7:00 pm.

M/S/P Eric Etherington/Dennis Filer to extend Ryan Ratkovec's unpaid leave of absence until next regular council meeting unless council receives an independent medical evaluation report early then the council can use their discretion to hold a special meeting to discuss the matter.

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Consent Agenda

M/S/P Christine Foss/Eric Etherington to approve the consent agenda items with revised bills and minutes (Minutes/Bills-Revised/Receipts).

In Favor- Brenda Sather, Dennis Filer, Christine Foss, Eric Etherington, Shawn Walsh

Upcoming Meetings:

- Regular Council Meetings: at 5:30 pm, June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Brenda Sather
Mayor

Anita Locken
Clerk-Treasurer