

**CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**JANUARY 16, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike McDermott at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Present at roll call were: Ray Spellman, Dave Roelli, Joe Boll, Cindy Corley and Steve Pickett. Excused absence: John Sonsalla. Also present were: Aaron Stauffacher, Bart Nies of Delta 3 Engineering, Joe Weier of SWCAP, Mike Reuter, Jeff McCarthy, Amy Johnson, Kim Winslow, Brian Lund and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Pickett second by Spellman that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Roelli second by Pickett to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning a proposed Proclamation – Fair Housing Action. Copies of an email from Joe Weier and the proposed Proclamation were included in the agenda packet. Joe Weier of SWCAP attended the meeting to present information and answer questions. Joe stated the proposed Proclamation is a requirement of the CDBG grant award. A Notice of Public Information Meeting was placed in the Republican Journal on December 28, 2023 and January 4, 2024. No one from the public attended this meeting. Mr. Weier then read the Proclamation aloud. After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Corley to approve the City of Darlington Fair Housing Action Proclamation as presented, and authorize Mayor McDermott to sign said Proclamation. Motion carried. Joe Weier then left the meeting.

Bart Nies of Delta 3 Engineering attended the meeting to present information on the following topics:

- **New Municipal Well Project.** Bart is seeking permission from the Council to complete a well site investigation project. Bart reviewed the City's current water system for those present. The City currently has two wells and two water towers, however, with the development of the business park, the City is need of a new well, somewhere on the south side. The two water towers are connected, and are able to share water between them; but additional well capacity is needed for the water system. Grant and/or loan funds are available for engineering and construction costs. Bart estimated the cost of the well site investigation project would be between \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00. This matter will be included as an action item on the agenda for the February 6, 2024 Council meeting.
- **Proposed Land Development.** Bart then reported on recent meetings held with Mayor McDermott and others, concerning possible areas for residential lot development within the City of Darlington. One of those sites is the Wescot Property just off Galena Street and Union Grove Lane. If the Council is interested, representatives of Delta 3 Engineering can prepare a concept plan and development cost estimate for the Wescot Property. The estimated cost of to prepare the concept plan would be between \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00. This matter will also be included as an action item on the agenda for the February 6, 2024 Council meeting.

- Public Works / Capital Improvement Projects Funding Opportunities / Options. Bart then reported on additional grant and loan funding this is available through the State of Wisconsin for water and sewer construction projects. He stated he has staff on hand at Delta 3 Engineering to prepare the grant applications and also handle the grant administration requirements for the City. Bart then explained the possibility of selling some of wastewater plant phosphorus credits created by the streambank rehab project; to the Village of South Wayne or Village of Gratiot downstream of the wastewater treatment plant. This matter will be considered by the Council and discussed further at a future Council meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning the updated list of Mayor's appointment of committees, commissions and boards. A copy of the updated list was included in the agenda packet. A new committee was added to the standing committee list; the list of City Officials was updated to reflect the retirement of Phil Risseeuw as Clerk-Treasurer; the list of commissions was revised; and the list of banks or depositories was updated. After review and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Boll to approve the updated Mayor's appointment of committees, commissions and boards as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Roelli second by Pickett to approve the payment of the following December, 2023 vouchers: City vouchers #45299 thru #45398 in the amount of \$222,342.24; Direct deposit payroll vouchers #13760 thru #13825 in the amount of \$59,523.46; Water Dept. vouchers #7274 thru #7305 in the amount of \$81,127.12; Sewer Dept. vouchers #7921 thru #7948 in the amount of \$105,987.29; and Library vouchers #6278 thru #6286 in the amount of \$12,774.60. Motion carried.

Under reports of committees, Mayor McDermott stated Ehlers Public Finance Seminar is scheduled for February 15-16, 2024 at Wisconsin Dells. Mayor McDermott also reported on year end information provided at the most recent Lafayette County EMS meeting. And Mayor McDermott recognized Phil Risseeuw for his 30 years of service to the City of Darlington as Clerk-Treasurer. Phil Risseeuw is retiring from the position on January 19, 2024. Amy Johnson has been promoted to the Clerk-Treasurer position. All duties and responsibilities of the Clerk-Treasurer position are hereby transferred to Amy Johnson.

Motion by Pickett second by Boll to go into closed session in accordance with Section 19.85 (1) (e) Wis. Stats., to consider a renewal contract with the Darlington Professional Police Association. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Roelli second by Pickett to reconvene to regular session in accordance with Section 19.85 (2) Wis. Stats., to take action if necessary, concerning a renewal contract with the Darlington Professional Police Association; and adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

After review and consideration, motion by Roelli second by Spellman to approve the proposed Agreement between the City of Darlington and the Darlington Professional Police Association for contract years 2024-2025 as presented. Motion carried.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Boll second by Roelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

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Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer