

**Public Property and Health Committee
City Council Chambers
July 2, 2019**

Call to order at 6:50 p.m.

Roll call by sign-in.

Citizen Comments: Dave Abendroth asked that the Evergreen tree overgrowing the sidewalk at Markesan Bible Church be trimmed. Martin will look into that issue.

Public Works Report: Nothing to report

Old Business:

Discussion and Action on Maintenance of “Memorial Trees” on Hwy 44: Lions member Dave Brinkman was in attendance and asked about the possibility that if a tree is removed, a tree be planted somewhere else so the memorial is still in place. The Mayor suggested the cemetery as an option. Ald. Henke also suggested the parks. Martin advised both spots had spaces for trees and he would locate the cemetery plan for tree planting. Mr. Brinkman confirmed that specific tree locations were not assigned to a specific donation but the donations were general for the group of trees. Chief Pflum will identify the number and location of the trees that should be removed due to safety concerns and bring that information to the next meeting. Martin noted that removal of the trees is a late fall, winter, early spring project when there are no leaves.

Discussion and Action on Agreement with Lion’s Club Regarding Soldier’s and Sailor’s Park: Dave Brinkman attended the meeting representing the Lion’s Club. The Committee reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Regarding item 6, per a request from Dave Brinkman, each year the City Clerk will block the Sunday of June Dairy Days for a Lion’s Club event. Motion by Mayor Slate/Ald. Triemstra that the change regarding blocking June Dairy Days Sunday be added to the Agreement and the Agreement is sent to Council for approval and to the City Attorney for final review. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on Soldiers and Sailor’s Park Beach Preservation: The Mayor reported that he had talked with Paul Gunderson from Green Lake County Conservation about coming to Markesan to look at the situation and help us develop a beach preservation plan. This plan would (1) address water coming into the park, (2) prevent the sand from drifting and filling in docking area, and (3) look at possibly expanding the beach a small amount. Mr. Gunderson has not been able to visit the location yet. The Mayor will contact him again.

Discussion and Action on the Long Lawn Notices: Ald. Henke asked for some clarification about how the notices were delivered. There was discussion about the complaint that was received. No further action taken.

New Business

Discussion and Action on Deer Population in the City of Markesan – DNR Warden: John Schreiber WDNR Warden and James Christopoulos WDNR Wildlife Biologist for Fond du Lac County attended the meeting. Ald. Henke explained that the number of complaints about deer in the city destroying gardens

and other plantings was increasing. Mr. Schreiber and Mr. Christopoulos explained the options which have the goal of stabilizing the population:

1. Capture and sterilization of the deer – has no demonstrated success in wild herds that they are aware of.
2. Trapping – cost is about \$500 (per animal) and the deer are euthanized not trapped and released.
3. Sharpshooters- cost is between \$150 to 250 per deer depending on the disposition of the carcass. This is allowed by a nuisance permit. There are two companies in the state that do this. This is something that Green Lake has done to address their deer population issue. This is done outside the hunting season. The sharpshooters use Nuisance tags issued by the City, not deer tags.
4. Work with local bow hunters to authorize them to hunt inside City limits. This hunt is based on the deer being a nuisance. Local residents are encouraged to participate. Ripon has a program of this type for about 12 years and has seen success. The cost to taxpayers is much less. The City pays for the bait and will allow access to City property for hunting. The program is controlled with the City knowing who is hunting and the areas being hunted. Ripon plans to continue the program but at a lower level since the deer population inside the city has decreased. Mr. Brinkman noted that he was aware of a city that had this kind of program where a lottery system was used so all interested hunters had a chance to participate.

There was also discussion on hunting allowed inside the City. Wisconsin Act 71 changed the restrictions imposed by local governments on hunting. While hunters can still be barred from hunting on city-owned land, they can now hunt within city limits during regular deer bow seasons and no longer need to be certified by city police officials. Regular hunting regulations still apply in urban areas.

A hunter may hunt with a cross bow, as long as all conditions are met including, but not limited to (1) hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of occupied buildings, (2) no hunting on or across City property, (3) hunter must be elevated and discharge to the ground, (4) must be during open season, (5) a licensed hunter, (6) must be property owner or have permission of property owner and (6) must not endanger life or limb or damage property. Chief Pflum is able to provide complete information on these conditions. The Committee noted that the requirement for 100 yards from a building cannot be made more restrictive (as 100 yards is the state requirement) but can be made less restrictive, e.g. 50 or 25 yards. This item will be put on the agenda for further consideration.

Regarding feeding of deer, which is prohibited, concerned citizens should call or text the DNR tipline at 1-800-847-9367 right away so the incident can be investigated. This is not a City ordinance but a county wide ban, so the proper person to call is the DNR. Citizens waiting to mention a problem to City officials delays action on the DNR's part.

This item will be placed on future agendas and the Committee will work with these officials to put together a plan for addressing the issue focusing on option 4 and increasing area hunters understanding of Act 71.

Citizen Pat Stobbe raised a question about feeders for small animals and the DNR officials clarified that question and advised they had spoken to the person initially raising the question.

Discussion and Action on Recycling Pick Up Guidelines: Ald. Henke reported a citizen concern about people putting out their recycling carts on the wrong week and then leaving them at the curb until the next pickup date. Also, the citizen reported seeing black garbage bags in the recycling cart, which is prohibited. The Committee discussed the need to continue to communicate the guidelines and would like to put short reminders in the newsletter that goes out with the water bills.

The Mayor explained the issues with businesses putting out their carts. The carts are put out in the morning in front of the building. But pickup is late in the day and when Automated comes through, cars are parked blocking access to the carts. If a business put the carts in parking spaces, they are affecting parking. The Mayor requested that the City Clerk either send an email or letter to Advanced to see if they can change their route to pick up downtown business first (by 9:00 a.m.) so parking spaces are not blocked and Advanced trucks can access the carts.

Discussion and Action on Pool Ordinance: Ald. Henke advised the Committee she had marked up the ordinance and had emailed it to the City Clerk that afternoon. The Mayor asked for a change in the information on fencing. Ald. Henke marked up the change and will submit it to the City Clerk.

Adjournment: Motion by Mayor Slate/Ald. Thiem to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.