

February 7, 2022

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote Call-In

City Council Members:

Present, in-person:

Karen Spears-Novachek, Laura Tulowitzky, Tom Neimes, Carl Broberg, Mary McGrath, Dave Anderson

Present, remote:

Jennifer Maziasz

Municipal Personnel:

Present in-person:

Mayor Mary D. Motiff, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch

Present, remote:

none

Absent:

none

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Mayor Motiff. Roll call attendance depicted seven (7) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized.

Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting of January 10, 2022 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the January 10, 2022 minutes of the City Council, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the monthly expenditures as reviewed, second by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously via a roll-call vote.

Public Comment – Bill Luckenbill, 1305 Grandview Blvd., owner of Bill’s Collision Center on Bayfield St., spoke to express his displeasure with Council decision to end decorative street lighting at 6th Ave. W, which is across from his business. Mr. Luckenbill further stated that this short-changes the businesses and residents west of the 6th Ave., and visitors will think that this is where the city starts. He ended by asking Council to reconsider the ending location of decorative street lighting.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor announced that information on the upcoming referendum for expanded EMS services will be on the City’s website in a few weeks. She gave a reminder that the primary election for school board is next Tuesday (2/15) and early voting is occurring now. The Mayor concluded with an appeal to residents that live near fire hydrants to dig them out and keep them clear for the safety of homes, citizens, and the City.

Discussion & Action on Authorization to Bid and Approval of Plans for Washburn Iron Works Sewer Relocation Project – Kluver stated this is a relocation of a main sewer line to allow for the Iron Works expansion. He further stated that this line serves a majority of the east side of the City and that it is an old clay-tile line that would need to be replaced at some point anyway. Kluver then explained the location/route of the new line. Broberg moved to approve the plans and authorize the bidding process for the Washburn Iron Works Sewer Relocation Project, second by Novachek. McGrath commented that as a property owner in this area, Omaha St. was vacated, and the property owners own the northern portion of the right-of-way. While the City retained the lakeside portion of the right-of-way. Discussion occurred regarding the relocation route. Mike Stoffel, Ayres Associates, stated that a release for bids will occur shortly, with Council potentially awarding a contract in April. Motion carried; McGrath abstained.

Presentation & Discussion on Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Study Report – Kellie Pederson, Presenter – Kellie Pederson, Community Development Educator for UW-Madison Extension-Bayfield Co., presented the findings of the recent housing survey conducted by the Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Coalition. Key points for Bayfield Co.: The County has had an 8% population growth in the past 10 years, and it is on track to be the eldest county in the Wisconsin by 2040. The County is not losing young people; however, it is gaining older residents at a faster rate. 38% of owner-occupied households are 65 and older. Also, 41.5% of residents pay more than 30% of their incomes on housing. The County has a lower percentage

(16.8%) of rental units than the national average (36%). With 43.7% of rental households having incomes less than \$25,000. Specific to the Washburn: 61% of city residents could not afford a rent/mortgage payment of more than \$800 a month. Pederson added that Chequamegon Bay has been selected as a pilot community by the Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) for a Rural Affordable Workforce Housing Initiative (RAHWI) to support and develop new housing solutions. Novachek, chair of the Washburn Housing Authority, added that most often housing authorities are assumed to only manage low-income housing, but that development of workforce housing can also be done.

Discussion & Action on Section of Detour Route and Staging Preference for Phase 1 Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project – The Mayor recapped discussion of the January 26th public meeting that presented the Option 3 detour route, noting favorable support by most of the attendees. Broberg moved to choose Detour Route Option 3 with the preference of one stage of construction for Phase 1 Bayfield St. Reconstruction Project, seconded by Broberg. Kluver stated that the Option 3 Detour could still have multiple staging construction, if desired. Novachek concurred with public meeting support for the Option 3 detour with one stage of construction: citing less cost, one year construction, better detour route, and the paving of Holman Lakeview Dr. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Disposal of Surplus Equipment – McGrath moved to approve the disposal of surplus equipment through auction, seconded by Novachek. The Mayor identified these items as snowmobile & snowmobile trailer. Kluver stated that the Ambulance Service has newer equipment and the proceeds from the sale of these items will be used to help fund the purchase of a new Gator. Tulowitzky asked if a local non-profit could be given first dibs on these items before going to public auction. Anderson asked if there would be any benefit to the City donating the items or selling at the minimum set price. Kluver responded that the three options Council has, according to the ordinance, are donate to a non-profit located within the City, sell to another governmental body, or place on auction. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on 2022 Administration Goals and Objectives; Review of 2021 Goals – Kluver reviewed progress in the 2021 goals and presented the 2022 goals; noting the carry-overs like Bayfield St. Reconstruction, Comprehensive Planning, Ambulance Staff. The Mayor stated that the list of goals seems more like a list of projects. Discussion continued, including the need for additional assessment of current sidewalk conditions. McGrath left meeting at 7:37PM. Council further discussed if there was a need for additional meetings. Tulowitzky moved to approve the 2022 Administrative Goals and Review of 2021 Goals, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session –

- **Personnel Matters – Evaluation of the City Administrator** – A motion was made by Novachek to go into closed session at 7:47PM pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (c), for evaluation of the City Administrator, following which the Council may reconvene in open session to take any action that may be necessary on the closed session items, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

An annual review of the City Administrator was conducted. No motion was made.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 8:32PM.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

Committee Member Karen Spears-Novachek, Mary McGrath & Laura Tulowitzky reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.