

**April 10, 2023**

**CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote Call-In

**City Council Members:**

Present, in-person:

Karen Spears-Novachek, Tom Neimes, Carl Broberg, Dave Anderson, Laura Tulowitzky, Jennifer Maziasz

Present, remote:

none

**Municipal Personnel:**

Present in-person:

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

Present, remote:

none

Absent:

Mary McGrath

**Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 5:35PM by Mayor Motiff. Roll call attendance depicted six (6) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized.

**Approval of Minutes – City Council of March 13, 2023** - A motion was made by Neimes to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes of the City Council, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Public Comment** – Roth Edwards, 221 W 6<sup>th</sup> St., began by stating that the Bayfield St. Reconstruction Project is much needed and recommends the City spend as much time and energy needed on the project as it can and forgo the open-field glamping project. He then read a statement from past Washburn mayor Edith Merila, who was mayor from 1976-1980 when the Walking Trail was originally built by the community; it was the people’s path.

Teena Racheli, 111 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., first thanked Council for the opportunity to share her comments, then shared her gut feel that the land along the lakeshore trail is beautiful, it is not in the best health. There is erosion and other signs of decline, and it needs tangible actions and policy for a goal of restoration. She continued that the proposed camping project, while interesting, is not environmentally focused. Racheli does not feel that the income generated by this camping wouldn’t be a substantial way to address the fiscal needs. The lakeshore walking trail and the land that supports it are truly irreplaceable community treasures and hopes Council decides “No” on recreation camping proposals and instead seek ways to restore the vitality to the lakeshore.

Taura Edwards, 80765 State Hwy 13, ask City Council to think more carefully about the land before moving forward with development. She continued that citizens stepped forward and built the path; the people’s path. The area is special and different, and we are fortunate to experience this kind of open space and green space, and to keep it open to the public and the citizens.

**Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments** – The Mayor noted the start of warming weather and the heavy snow melt, along with the concern of overflow at the waste treatment plant.

She then encouraged citizens to conserve water and thanked staff for keeping an eye on the situation. The Mayor next recognized and presented certificates to outgoing council members Karen Novachek, Laura Tulowitzky, and Carl Broberg; and thanked them for their service to the citizens of Washburn. The Mayor concluded by nominating John Hopkins, Mike Wrobleski, Karen Novachek, Rick Grubele, and Matt Crowell to the Citizen Participation Committee which is required for the CDBG Grant application. Neimes moved to appoint Hopkins, Wrobleski, Novachek, Grubele, and Crowell to the Citizen Participation Committee, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Resolution 2023-007 Committing to Match Requirement for Community Development Block Grant Application and Certifying Match Available – Neimes moved to approve Resolution 2023-007, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously via a roll-call vote.**

**Discussion & Action on Resolution 2023-008 Authorizing Application to the Community Development Block Grant Program – Novachek moved to approve Resolution 2023-008, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously via a roll-call vote.**

**Discussion & Action on Acceptance of Proposal to Replace City Hall Windows –** Kluver began discussion stating that because energy efficiency is one of the factors in the purchase of windows, the City is exempt from State bidding laws. He continued that two proposals were received for window replacement; both are local manufacturers. John Hipp, H-Window representative, presented to Council, gave costs, and answered questions about their proposal. Next, Ron Anderson, ANDCO Inc. representative, presented, gave costs, and answered questions about their proposal. Discussion began regarding style of window and converting the round-top back to glass, a more historic look, or keeping as such. The Mayor called for a 5-minute break, inviting Council to go outside and look at the current window configuration.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 6:35PM. Discussion continued regarding window style and additional costs for varying amenities. Anderson moved to approve H-Window’s proposal including awning style and a glass round-top, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation of 2022 Library Report – Darrell Pendergrass, Presenter –** Library Director Pendergrass presented the 2022 annual report of the Library. He included that there were 24,795 checkouts in 2022, and that this number can be used to project funding from Bayfield County for 2024, estimating \$58,800. Maziasz asked about computer usage. Pendergrass answered that there has been a decline of usage since before Covid, but that the 24 hr. Free Wi-Fi had received 15,600 individual uses in the last year. Pendergrass added that the elevator repairs have just been completed and for the first time a wheel-bound person can enter the Library and go to the main floor without any assistance.

**Public Hearing, Discussion, & Action on Ordinance 2023-002 Adopting the City of Washburn Comprehensive Plan 2023-2043**

- **Harbor Commission Request to Change Future Land Use Map Re: Lot 48 (Tax ID 32607) from Waterfront Mixed Use to Marina –**

Tulowitzky moved by to open Public Hearing, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Nicholas Suminski, 845 County Hwy C, member of the Harbor Commission, stated that the Harbor Commission voted 7-0 to change the zoning of Lot 48 from Mixed-Use to Marina. He added that the Plan Commission recently voted 4-2 not to change the current zoning. Suminski continued that the current owner of the boat storage buildings at the Marina would like to expand to Lot 48 but could not with the current mixed-use zoning. There has been no interest in this lot since the

Pearl Beach proposal and should show that there is an interest in more marina business. With the cost share agreement for the operation of the marina, this would be a benefit for the Harbor Commission and the City. Suminski concluded that it would be a shame to see the lot still empty five years from now. Roth Edwards, 221 W 6<sup>th</sup> St., stated support for an Architectural Review ordinance at least for Bayfield Street. Broberg moved to closed Public Hearing, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor stated that the Plan Commission spent a lot of time reviewing updates to the Comprehensive Plan, and specifically looked at Lot 48 and felt it was not intended for boat storage. Broberg noted that the Plan does include expanding boat storage facilities at the Marina. Discussion began. Broberg added that Lot 48 was the only practical location to expand boat storage, being adjacent to the Marina. If they were to place a building on the Marina property, they would lose outdoor storage for larger commercial boats. Attorney Lindsey noted that the current zoning of Lot 48 does allow for outside boat storage, but not for indoor boat storage. Anderson commented that people want to look at the Lake, not a pole building. Novachek added that there are many views of the lakeshore throughout the City, and the 1.5 acres of Lot 48 does not remove all of the views of Lake Superior. Discussion continued. Broberg moved to change the Future Land Use Map for Lot 48 to Marina Zoning, seconded by Novachek. Motion failed three (3) to four (4). Neimes, Novachek, Broberg voting in favor; Maziasz, Tulowitzky, Anderson voting against; with the Mayor voting nay. Novachek moved to approve Ordinance 2023-002 adopting the City of Washburn Comprehensive Plans 2023-2043, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing, Discussion & Action on Approval of Recommended Changes to the Land Sale List** – Novachek moved to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Jewel Pickert, 17 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., asked if Lot 48 was included in the Land Sale List, and if so, she would be in favor of the zoning change to marina. She also commented that it seems like people are not for business and making money for the City. She continued that they were not asking for pole barns along the entire lakeshore, there are many places to see the lake. She concluded wondering why there is such a push to not be for business. Leann House, 329 W 5<sup>th</sup> St., agrees with the previous speaker and wonders why parking RVs and expanding the campgrounds is not going to destroy the view of the lakefront, but putting a metal building by the Marina on Lot 48 will; and which would give revenue to the City. She concluded that if economic development was a concern, why this wouldn't be considered. Novachek moved to closed Public Hearing, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Novachek moved to approve recommended changes to the Land Sale List, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Bayfield Street Project Phase 2 Design Elements Including Turn Lanes, Bump Outs, and Decorative Features** – Novachek asked about extending a sidewalk to Superior Ave. knowing that the housing development project is not finalized. Kluver responded that the motion for a sidewalk could be contingent on the housing project moving forward. If this is a desired feature, it would be good to know as the design could change the profile of the highway. Novachek moved to approve a Sidewalk on the northside of Bayfield Street to Superior Ave. contingent on the Housing Project, as well as Curve Bump Outs on the westside of E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. for Phase 2 Design, seconded by Tulowitzky. Discussion occurred, including public comments regarding decorative features and the survey being conducted by the Washburn Chamber. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Contract Amendment with Marina Management Inc. Related to Financial Review/Compilation for 2022** – Broberg moved to approve a Contract Amendment with Marina Management Inc. to allow a compilation for Fiscal Year 2022, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Agreement with Cooper Engineering to Prepare Final Plans and Cost Estimates for West End Park Campground Expansion Project – Neimes moved to approve an agreement with Cooper Engineering to prepare Final Plans & Cost Estimates for the West End Campground Expansion Project, seconded by Anderson.** The Mayor began discussion by responding to previous comments that restoration work and invasive species control is happening on the lakefront trail, and this is not an either/or scenario, develop this or take care of that. This City will continue to take care of the lakefront trail, regardless of campground expansion. Discussion occurred, including Cooper Engineering meeting with the Parks Committee as the work commences.

Maziasz moved to open the floor, seconded by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously. Roth Edwards, 221 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., added that Council's argument against a marina storage shed should also pertain to the preservation of public green space on Holman Lakeview Dr. He continued that another \$73,000 is being proposed, above the \$77,000 that was already spent and stated that the matter needs to be tabled and brought before the new council and the public. He concluded that tourism is Washburn's primary path forward, and do we really think selling off the lakefront with more development is going to be a charm that brings folks here or will keeping the lakefront be an advantage to the community and the people that will visit here; and that a decision should not be made tonight.

John Hopkins, 631 W Bayfield St., commented that the overflow area, being developed, will take quite a bit of time and money. Is it possible to wait and see how we do at the overflow and have more discussion before developing the other area.

Leann House, 329 W 5<sup>th</sup> St., stated to err on the side of caution that just because we got a plan, we got to keep marching forward, seems like flawed logic and a rush to judgement. And back to Lot 48 that it could gain revenue but it ruins the aesthetic, but yet destroys the aesthetic of the lakefront near the West End campground. She continued that at the past council meeting she's attended it seemed that 98% of the people that spoke had concerns about the development and asked Council to protect Washburn's public land. She heard that someone started a petition asking to put this to a referendum and it seems the communities is asking Council to table this matter regarding campground expansion and let the people vote on it. She concluded stating that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone; if you let this go, you'll never be able to change it back.

Jared Trimbo, 24 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., commented that he's followed this discussion a long time and if you asked people to choose between greenspace or something developed, they say greenspace all the time; but when you get into it, it's not so simple. He continued that he supports going forward and thinks it's something the city needs. Novachek moved to close the floor, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued.

Tulowitzky moved to re-open the floor, seconded by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously. Genevieve Dwyer, Connecticut, stated that she grew up in Washburn and that she cherishes the natural areas and it's important to share that the lakefront is very cherished and appreciates the Park Committee to propose alternatives. Novachek moved to close the floor, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to approve an agreement with Cooper Engineering carried five (5) to one (1); Tulowitzky voting against.

**Discussion & Action on Special Event Request to Temporarily Restrict Parking on S. 2nd Ave W. and Harbor View Drive for North Coast Car Show, Use of Omaha Property for Parking, and Relaxation of Open Container on July 29, 2023 – Tammy DeMars/Jeff Moberg, Petitioners – No discussion.**

**Discussion & Action on Use of Thompson’s West End Park, Memorial Park, Wikdal Park, and the Coal Dock; Closure of Portions of N. 3rd Ave. West and S. 4th Avenue West; and Relaxation of Open Container and Noise Ordinances all at Certain Times During Brownstone Block Party Activities July 28 through July 30, 2023 – Washburn Chamber, Petitioner – No discussion.**

**Discussion & Action on Recurring Special Event Request to Temporarily Close Central Avenue from Bayfield Street North to the Alley on Wednesdays from 1:00PM until 7:00PM Starting June 14 until October 18 for the Washburn Farmers Market – Aaron Irmiter, Petitioner – No discussion.**

**Discussion & Action on Special Event Request to Temporarily Close N. 3rd Ave. West from Bayfield Street to the Alley on June 24th for Dandelion Days – Ava Kay, Petitioner – No discussion.**

A motion was made by Novachek to approve the identified Special Event Requests for the North Coast Car Show on July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Brownstone Block Party on July 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, Washburn Farmers Market on Wednesdays June 14<sup>th</sup> to October 18<sup>th</sup>, and Dandelion Days on June 24<sup>th</sup>, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 8:55PM.**

Tony Janisch  
Assistant City Administrator

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:00pm**

Committee Members Karen Spears-Novachek & Laura Tulowitzky reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.