

April 12, 2021

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

Present, remote:

Jennifer Maziasz, Laura Tulowitzky

Municipal Personnel:

Present in-person:

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

Present, remote:

City Attorney Max Lindsey, Director of Public Works Gerry Schuette

Absent:

Mary McGrath

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM 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 Meeting of March 8, 2021 - A motion was made by Neimes to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes of the City Council with the corrections noted, second by Novachek. 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 roll-call vote.

Public Comment – Jeremy Oswald, 401 W 5th St, encouraged the City to continue working with Lost Apostle Brewing LLC for the redevelopment of the Brokedown Palace. Nick Wills, 208/210 W Bayfield St, owner of Coco’s Bakery, stated that he’s fine if the Brokedown building needs to be torn down but is a bit concerned about the shared common wall.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor congratulated the re-election of all council members on the ballot and thanked all the poll-workers for their help carrying out the election. The Mayor further noted that the cases of Covid-19 are on the rise again in Bayfield County and urged everyone to continue wearing masks, and to get vaccinated, to protect the community and get the virus under control. The Mayor mentioned that the recently launched Community Branding Survey has already received 300 submittals and a link to the survey can be found on the City’s website. She also noted that two more food distributions were occurring this month, on the 14th and 28th. The Mayor concluded with the upcoming Earth Week Pick-up; mentioning that gloves & trash bags can be picked up at the City Garage and that the Washburn High School Ecology Club has adopted Bayfield Street and will be picking up on Saturday, April 24th.

Discussion & Action on Structure at 204/206 W Bayfield Street to Retain or Allow it to be Razed as Part of New Development – Badger Colish stated that after a roof and building assessment; the building is wet and degraded beyond easy repair. Colish added that the best scenario, and most cost effective, would be to raze the building and start new. Novachek advocated for the new building to be designed in a way to accommodate a second story addition in the future. Colish responded that architects are working on a design, and that he would like to include patio seating on the roof but was concerned about costs if an elevator was needed. Maziasz noted that given the cost comparison, it seems to make more sense to build new. She then asked about the vision/look of the new building. Colish stated that the look has not been defined yet, but that the Plan Commission would have to approve it. Broberg moved to allow the building to be removed and replaced, seconded by Novachek. Tulowitzky moved to open the floor, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously. Nick Wills, Coco’s Bakery, commented that Washburn doesn’t really have a building style, but that anything would be better than what is currently there. Anderson moved to close the floor, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously. Anderson stated it would be nice if Washburn had a building theme so the building can be designed as such; to fit with the community. Tulowitzky suggested that, if possible, materials of value be resourced and reused. Motion to allow the building to be removed and replaced passed unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Renewal of Lease Agreement of Thompson’s West End Park Boat Ramp Area for North Coast Community Sailing- Becky Zelent, Petitioner – Janisch stated that he met with Bayfield Rec Center staff on site to discuss other possible locations for the program, noting that this beach was the best spot at West End Park for this type of programming. Maziasz stated that this was a good program and good for the community, but that beach space is a limited resource in Washburn. Discussion continued. It was clarified that Recreation and Fitness Resources, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization. Maziasz moved to approve the lease agreement with North Coast Community Sailing, seconded by Broberg. Maziasz reiterated the benefit to the community. The Mayor suggested a presentation to Council as the end of the season of how the program went. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Decorative Streetlight Design for Bayfield Street Reconstruction – Mike Stoffel, Ayres & Associates, presented three options for decorative lighting styles along the Bayfield Street downtown corridor. Tulowitzky questioned if lighting was required. Stoffel answered that the DOT does not require lighting along the highway, but that if lighting is installed, it must meet a certain luminosity. Neimes proposed an additional candy cane style arm fixture and provided an example. Novachek asked for the timeline on needing a decision. The Mayor answered that a decision must be made by the May meeting. Novachek suggested that community input be gathered. Broberg included that costs must be a factor in the decision making. Discussion continued. Novachek moved to delay the decision to the May Meeting, include the candy cane style as an option along with its costs, and seek public input, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Streetlight Options Outside Decorative Zone for Bayfield Street Reconstruction – Kluver stated two options for lighting outside the decorative zone. These being continue with the current Xcel streetlighting, or replace with DOT lighting. Discussion occurred regarding benefits and drawbacks of each option. Novachek moved to approve Option 1 to continue with Xcel lighting outside of the decorative zone, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Master Contract with Ayres & Associates, Inc. and Supplement Agreement for Services Related to the STH 13 Reconstruction Projects; and Formalization of City Working Group for Bayfield Street Reconstruction Projects – Kluver presented the need for a supplement to the master agreement with Ayres & Associates; stating that Ayres will provide additional guidance and assistance with the DOT outside of the original scope of services in the original contract. Broberg moved to approve the supplement to the master agreement, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Kluver further stated the need to formalize a working group to make minor decisions regarding the Bayfield Street Reconstruction project; especially when time constraints are at play. Broberg moved to approve a working group for the Bayfield St. Project consisting of the current members involved, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor requested moving up the alcohol licensing agenda item. A motion was made by Anderson to amend the agenda and move up discussion of approval for a “Class B” alcohol license, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Approval of a “Class B” Alcohol License for 211 Martini Bar LLC, at 211 W. Bayfield Street – David Sneed, part-owner of 211 Martini Bar stated that he envisions opening a place where people can go to socialize, while also having a drink; and further stated that the hours of operation would be limited, likely 4pm to 9 pm. Novachek moved to approval the “Class B” Alcohol License for 211 Martini Bar LLC, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Updating Job Description for Utility Operator – Kluver stated that this was an update to a current position within Public Works. Novachek moved to approve the updated position description for Utility Operator, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Request to Hire an Intern – Kluver stated that given the current finances, there is an opportunity to allocate \$13,000, approximately 800 hours, to hire an Intern. He envisions the position to carry out specific projects, potentially associated with the Bayfield Street Redevelopment; to be filled by a current or recently graduated college student. Novachek moved to approve the hiring of an Intern for up to 20 weeks at \$15.00 per hour, seconded by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Anderson, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Tony Janisch, Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

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