

June 12, 2023

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote Video Conferencing

City Council Members:

Present, in-person:

Tom Neimes, Jennifer Maziasz, Jared Trimbo, John Hopkins,
Dave Anderson

Present, remote:

none

Municipal Personnel:

Present, in-person:

Mayor Mary D. Motiff, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver,
Asst. City Administrator Tony Janisch, Public Works Director
Gerry Schuette

Present, remote:

none

Absent:

Mary McGrath, Tracey Snyder

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:39pm by Mayor Motiff. Roll call attendance depicted five (5) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized.

Approval of Minutes – City Council of May 8, 2023 - A motion was made by Neimes to approve the May 8, 2023 minutes of the City Council, second by Trimbo. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures – A motion was made by Neimes to approve the monthly expenditures contingent upon review, second by Trimbo. Motion carried unanimously via a roll-call vote.

Public Comment – John Weinel, 90620 Bark Point Rd., Herbster, owner of Stage North, commented that a year ago, after the theater had been closed due to the Covid pandemic, Asst. City Administrator Janisch stated in a meeting that two Washburn businesses were not in compliance with the City’s liquor codes. His business faced a year of gossip that the City was going to remove their liquor license. He continued that a month ago Councilmember Maziasz stated her opinion that Stage North was not in compliance and asked the city attorney how much power the city had in granting and removing liquor licenses. Now they face another year of gossip because of the uneducated opinions spread at council meetings. He continued that Stage North has been in business for 25 years and has had a liquor license for 17 years, and they are in compliance with the liquor codes, and the rumors started in this room are damaging to his business. Weinel concluded that some of the members of council and in the city administration need to remember that they are here to assist the citizens and business in this town, and they are not here to attack or denigrate them. Patty Berg, Oshkosh, began by thanking council for their service to the community, which she had called home for almost 50 years. She expressed concern for Stage North with the proposed liquor license situation. Stage North has been a part of the community for years and other communities would like to have a theater. She concluded that it’s important to support the business in the community. Erik Gruber, 318 W Bayfield St., Karlyn Yellowbird/Ghost Ship Gallery, stated support for Stage North/Bell Tower and had heard the speculation and rumors of their liquor license. He concluded that Stage North/Bell Tower is a vital part of the community and its future.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments

- **Community for All Proclamation**
- **Appoint to Room Tax Commission**
- **Appointment of Fire Chief –**

The Mayor began by nominating Mark Guenther to be appointed as Fire Chief. Anderson moved to appoint Guenther as Fire Chief, seconded by Hopkins. Motion carried unanimously. The Mayor next nominated Mary McGrath to continue serving on the Room Tax Commission. Neimes moved to appoint McGrath to the Room Tax Commission, seconded by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously. The Mayor recognized Craig Parks for his 31+ years of service to the Washburn Fire Department, presenting Parks with a certificate. She next announced that the Wisconsin Legislature passed a bipartisan agreement to increase Shared Revenue by 20% for all communities in the state. She further noted a World Elderly Abuse Awareness event occurring at the Harbor View Event Center on June 15th. The Mayor concluded by reading the Community for All Proclamation.

Discussion & Action on Transfer of Property, Lot 1 of CSM 2278 (Portion of Lot 52) to Megan Collins at 330 S. 8th Ave. W – Neimes moved to approve the transfer of property to Collins along with installation of fencing, seconded Anderson. Megan Collins stated appreciation to city staff (Kluver & Schuette), and to Council for the time and effort of this process. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Referral of Request to Vacate 9th Street East Between Washington Avenue and 3rd Avenue East - Irene Blakely, Petitioner - Maziasz moved to refer the vacate of 9th St. E to the Plan Commission, second by Neimes. Maziasz asked if a roadway would ever be needed at this location in the future. Kluver responded that this would be a small roadway and creates a small triangle lot which would be difficult to build on within rights-of-way. He continued that it would be the best interest of the City if a structure could be built there. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 2023-011 Approving the 2022 Compliance Maintenance Report for the Sewer Utility – Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2023-011 for the 2022 Sewer Utility Compliance Maintenance Report, second by Trimbo. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 2023-012 Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing – Neimes moved to approve Resolution 2023-012 for the Reimbursement of Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing, second by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Personnel/Finance Committee Recommendation to Adjust the Employee Vacation Policy – Neimes moved to approve the adjustment to the Employee Vacation Policy, second by Trimbo. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Special Event Request for Cruise In Event at Patsy’s Bar on July 11, 2023 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM Including Relaxation of Open Container from Bayfield Street to the Alley and on S. 4th Avenue West, and the Temporary Closure of S. 4th Avenue West – Tammy DeMars/North Coast Car Show, Petitioner – Anderson moved to approve the special event requests for the Cruise In at Patsy’s, seconded by Neimes. Discussion occurred. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Approval of Class “B” (Beer) and “Class B” (Liquor) licenses to Chequamegon Bait, LLC at 10 W. Bayfield Street, Kelsey Lindsey – Agent – Anderson moved to approve the Alcohol Licenses for Chequamegon Bait, LLC, second by Maziasz. The Mayor stated that she did not believe any accusations were being made at the last meeting and that

council has the ability to discuss the items being presented. Maziasz commented that she was asking about the discretion of council in these matters and that there is a demand for liquor licenses in the city. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Approval of Annual Alcohol License Renewals – Neimes moved to approve Alcohol License Renewals, seconded by Trimbo. Maziasz asked about a prior discussion and the length of time a business had to be open to be in compliance. Janisch responded that there is an ordinance that to have an alcohol license, the establishment must be open for half of the year and that it had been used at least once to take the license away from the Brokedown Palace. The Mayor then asked about the name change of Karlyn Yellowbird Gallery but that the license was being issued to this name. Janisch answered that when he receives documentation from the IRS of the name change that he can issue a new license with the new name, Ghost Ship Gallery, and that it would not need to come back to council. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

Committee Member Tom Neimes reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.