

June 13, 2022

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, Mary McGrath, Dave Anderson, Laura Tulowitzky

Present, remote:

none

Municipal Personnel:

Present in-person:

Mayor Mary D. Motiff, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, Director of Public Works Gerry Schuette, City Attorney Max Lindsey

Present, remote:

none

Absent:

Jennifer Maziasz, Carl Broberg

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:31PM 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 Meeting of May 9, 2022; Board of Review Minutes of May 25, 2022 - A motion was made by Neimes to approve the May 9, 2022 minutes of the City Council and May 25, 2022 minutes of the Board of Review, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Comment – Emily Sytsma, 103 W 3rd St., owner of Merry Mermaid on 2nd Ave. W, asked for clarification with the sign ordinance. She understands that if she does not have a business on Bayfield St., she cannot advertise on Bayfield St. Ms. Sytsma further stated that there is a business not on Bayfield St., but they are putting a sandwich board on Bayfield St. She was told this was illegal. But business would have 30 days to remove the sign after notification of this, and by that time they’ve had the free advertisement. Ms. Sytsma concluded that she’s trying to play by the rules, but everyone else breaking the rules are getting away with it. Kathryn Erickson, 126 W Bayfield St, also spoke about the illegal sign that was placed in her yard. She complained to the police and then thought that maybe they gave the business permission to place it on the sidewalk. She continued that after reviewing the city website, this was against code. Ms. Erickson further asked when the City would start working on the ATV rules. What she reads online and when she talks to the police, it seems different, and she doesn’t know who to speak with about it. Megan Collins, 330 S 8th Ave. W, stated that she just learned of some changes to Bigelow St. that may impact her property.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments - The Mayor noted that the City has received \$5,000 from the Bayfield County Health Infrastructure Grant for Tennis Court expansion. She also noted a vacancy on the Library Board. The Mayor next read the Community for All proclamation. She concluded with the nomination of Michael Wright to the Harbor Commission. A motion was made by Novachek to appoint Michael Wright to the Harbor Commission for the term expiring April 2025, second by Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Conditional Use Permit for Agricultural Support Services in the Light Industrial District at 1454 CTH “C” – James Ledin, Petitioner – The Mayor stated that this has been approved by the Plan Commission and that there had been a Public Hearing. She also noted some questions and concerns at the public hearing. Novachek moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit for James Ledin at 1454 County Hwy C, seconded by Neimes. Tulowitzky asked what the questions and concerns were. Anderson answered the potential for noise and truck traffic. Mr. Ledin stated that operation of the sawmill

would be part-time with limited hours, and he will work with adjoining landowners on noise. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Proposed Improvements to Bigelow/West Holman Lakeview Drive Intersection at 8th Ave West – The Mayor noted the concern of the detour route for the Bayfield St. reconstruction with slowing of traffic at this intersection from the turns. Anderson moved to approve the proposed improvements to Bigelow & W. Holman Lakeview Dr. intersection at 8th Ave. W, seconded by Neimes. McGrath moved to open the floor, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously to open the floor. McGrath asked why the route was close to a house rather than routing on the west side of 8th Ave. Kluver answered that the purpose of this jog is to reduce traffic back-up from the turns involved when the detour route is in use. The City did look at two options for this jog; dropping Bigelow down to line up with Holman Lakeview and bringing Holman Lakeview up to line up with Bigelow. Kluver continued that the first option would involve a number of buried utility lines and the cost estimation is around \$167,000. The second option would be routed over a storm basin and around utility poles and the cost estimation would be around \$75,000. Kluver noted that the second option would bring the road closer to Ms. Collins' house and the right-of-way would nick the corner of her property line, but that the City would not claim that right-of-way. Kluver added that if the project could begin this year, using an existing contractor, the costs for the second option could be reduced even more. Discussion ensued. The Mayor questioned having the expense if the traffic issues are temporary. Megan Collins stated there are currently no traffic issues and it doesn't seem like a big problem for a temporary thing. Marley Ledin added that if truck traffic will be using the detour route, they will have problems with those turns. Allison Allen questioned the concern of losing a campsite and that the first option route is no closer to a campsite than the second route would be to the house. Katheryn Erickson asked if the route was straightened, what would happen to the ending section of Holman Lakeview. Kluver answered that it would revert to park space. Director of Public Works Gerry Schutte added that every option has been looked at and the City is trying ease the traffic flow and be financially responsible. Doing nothing to the route will likely cause traffic back-up and potentially dangerous situations with semis. Allison Allen added that this is a three-to-three-and-a-half-month issue and then its over. Neimes moved to close the floor, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued regarding reallocations of funding to cover costs of the improvement and timelines. Anderson moved to open the floor, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Megan Collins stated it appears you're choosing the path of least cost in a rushed way to create a solution to minimize impact, but she understood that this project would go on her property. Kluver clarified that the right-of-way would nick the property, but the actual paved portion of the road would not. Collins added that this would change her property with the loss of the line of trees and the ATV trail, and with the road being closer to the house it would change privacy when there are other options. It seems like a nonchalant decision based on a temporary change that's needed, by putting in a permanent road. McGrath moved to close the floor, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued. Motion to approve the proposed improvements to Bigelow & W. Holman Lakeview Dr. intersection at 8th Ave. W passed unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Re-Allocation of Capital Dollars for City Hall Improvements – Kluver stated that in the process of replacing the air conditioning at City Hall, it was discovered that the attic is full of vermiculite, which is assumed to contain asbestos. It was advised to remediate the vermiculite before moving forward with the replacement project. Novachek moved to approve the re-allocation of capital funds for City Hall improvements, second by Neimes. Discussion occurred regarding the vermiculite removal. Kluver added that City Hall will likely be closed when work is being done. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution #22-004 Approving the 2021 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report for the Sewer Utility – The Mayor complimented City staff for their excellent job at the Waste Treatment Plant. Novachek moved to approve Resolution #22-004, the 2021 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report for the Sewer Utility, seconded by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Special Event Request to have Temporary Intermittent Closures along W. 4th St. from 8th Avenue West to 5th Avenue West on June 19, 2022 for Washburn Challenge Road Race – Dave Wilcox, Petitioner – McGrath moved to approve the temporary street closure for the Washburn Challenge Road Race on June 19,2022, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Special Event Request to have Temporary Closures of 3rd Ave. W from Bayfield St. (Hwy 13) to the Alley, along Wikdahl Park, on July 2, 2022 for Dandelion Days

– **Michael McKenna, Petitioner** – McGrath moved to approve the temporary street closure for Dandelion Days on July 2, 2022, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Approval of Annual Alcohol License Renewals – Novachek moved to approve the Alcohol License Renewals, seconded by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 7:07PM.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

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