

September 12, 2022

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote Call-In

City Council Members:

Present, in-person:

Carl Broberg, Karen Spears-Novachek, Tom Neimes, Mary McGrath

Present, remote:

Laura Tulowitzky

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:

Jennifer Maziasz, Dave Anderson

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:35PM 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 August 1 & 18, 2022 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the August 1 & 18, 2022 minutes of the City Council, second by Neimes. Motion carried.

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 – Randy Daigle, 29515 Wedal Rd., owner of CR Treasures, provided comment of the proposed ordinance of No Parking on Bayfield St. Mr. Daigle stated that the memo provided said this request came from Wisconsin DOT and asked if this is verified. He further stated that earlier in the year the Chief of Police discussed with him issues about not blocking the parking entrance and not selling in the state right-of-way. Mr. Daigle continued that a week & a half ago a DOT representative stopped in. His wife asked the employee about being in violation and why the DOT did not send notification. He said the DOT employee told her that the City had contacted the DOT, not the other way around, and that somebody was lying. Mr. Daigle continued that the memo identifies the curve as being dangerous along with high rates of speed. He argues that the curve is minimal until 50 yards west of 11th Ave. and suggests reducing the speed limit or enforcing the law. He continued that the accidents that had occurred in the area are not from parking on the side of the road. He asked what the definition of parking is, and what about delivery drivers stopping, or people with trailers stopping to ask for directions to the campgrounds, or people that have a flat tire or run out of gas; will they be ticketed. Mr. Daigle further commented that his being the only business in that area, that he was being targeted and if so, could be harassment and lead to litigation. Mr. Daigle concluded by requesting, through the Freedom of Information Act, all correspondence with the DOT regarding this issue.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments - The Mayor began by thanking Dora Kling for her many years of service, as the primary representative on the Scenic By-Way Council. She then nominated Tracy Snyder, the current alternate representative, as the primary representative to the Scenic By-Way Council. The Mayor next nominated Richard Avol for re-appointment to the Washburn Housing Authority. A motion was made by McGrath to appoint Tracy Snyder to the Scenic By-Way Council for a 2-year term and to appoint Richard Avol to the Washburn Housing Authority for a 5-year term, second by Neimes. Motion passed unanimously. The Mayor next proposed a resolution of recognition for Curt Witynski and Gail Sumi, two retiring staff of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Local governments were asked to consider resolutions thanking these two for their public service. Novachek moved to approve Resolution #22-005, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Proposed Certified Survey Map to Redraw Tax IDs 35809 and 32800 as Part of Proposed Land Sale/Swap with Mark Bultmann and Jean Underwood – Broberg moved to approve the certified survey maps for Tax IDs 35806 and 32800, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Issuance of Declaration of Condemnation for Property Located at 310 S. 9th Avenue West Tax ID 33897 – Neimes moved to declare the property at Tax ID 33897 to be dilapidated and out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise unfit for human habitation, seconded by McGrath. Novachek asked if communication has occurred with the property owners prior to this declaration. Kluver answered no, this will begin the process. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation, Discussion, and Referral to Personnel/Finance Committee of Proposed 2023 General Fund, Capital, and Debt Service Budgets – The Mayor thanked Administrator Kluver for his hard work in putting the budget together. Kluver began stating that the budget included the tax increase and expenses for the new EMT positions. He continued that it also includes an adjusted pay structure for staff, that the Personnel/Finance Committee has been discussing, but that Council would also need to address, to stay competitive. Kluver recommended closing down the cable tv channel, increasing fees at the campgrounds, as well as expanding the campground to generate revenue. State funding through shared revenue is less now than it was 20 years ago; dollar for dollar, not even factoring in inflation. Kluver mentioned capital items including improvements to City Hall, and street repair. He concluded stating the need for additional planning for a borrowing. With the borrowing of Bayfield Street reconstruction coming, there is the opportunity to include other items/projects. Discussion ensued. Novachek moved to refer the 2023 general fund, capital & debt service budgets to the Personnel/Finance Committee, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Personnel Policy Recommendations from Personnel/Finance Committee Relate to Meal Reimbursements, EMT Incentive for Full Time and Permanent Part-Time Employees, Benefits for Salaried Police Officers; and Elimination of Graduated Wage Scale for New Hourly Hires – Novachek moved to approve the travel & meal reimbursement rates, seconded by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously. Novachek moved to approve the Non-EMT Employee EMT Incentive for full-time and permanent part-time employees, seconded by McGrath. Novachek stated the Personnel/Finance Committee discussed this in length. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously. Novachek moved to approve the additional benefit for Salaried Police Officers, seconded by Broberg. Novachek added that this was a benefit already received for hourly officers. Motion carried unanimously. Novachek moved to approve the elimination of the graduated wage scale for new employees beginning January 2023, and any new hires at 92% wage until first of the year, seconded by McGrath. Novachek noted this as a way of attracting applicants for open positions. Currently, new employees are paid 85% of the wage for the first six month of employment, then 92% of wage for the next six months. It would take a year for a new employee to receive 100% of the wage for the position they were hired for. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action Proposed Agreement with Eagle Audit and Accounting, LLC for Audit Services for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023 and 2024 – McGrath moved to approve the Agreement with Eagle Audit & Accounting for audit services, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Procurement Policy with Federal Grants and Funds – McGrath moved to approve the Procurement Policy for Federal Grant & Funds, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Ordinance 2022-008 Restricting On-Street Parking on Bayfield Street from 10th Avenue West to Fur Farm Road – McGrath moved to approve Ordinance #2022-008 restricting on-street parking on Bayfield Street from 10th Ave. W to Fur Farm Rd., seconded by Neimes. Attorney Lindsey answered the earlier question that, according to State statues, parking is the halting of a vehicle whether occupied or not except for the temporary purpose of loading/unloading property or passengers. So, deliveries would not be considered parking. Kluver added, also referring to public comment, that this request did come from Wisconsin DOT and he has the emails to prove it. He further added that this area of the city is a rural cross-section, meaning it is not curb & gutter, it's a highway with a ditch and one of the reasons WisDOT has made the request. Discussion continued. The Mayor added that it's a dangerous intersection to pull onto the highway. McGrath moved to open the floor, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Daigle agreed that it was a dangerous intersection, but his concern was that the police chief said they had to police the highway, tell customers not to park. He continued that the State should lower the speed limit, or the City should enforce it, and that semi-trucks coming around the corner slow down really quick and that

could cause traffic issues. He further suggested making both ends of town, without curb & gutter, no parking to the city limits; because it looks like the City is targeting a business. Discussion continued, including signage of the no parking area. Novachek moved to close the floor, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Motion approve Ordinance #2022-008 carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Ordinance 2022-009 Updating the Regulations Related to Outdoor Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages – Novachek moved to approve Ordinance #2022-009 for Regulations of Outdoor Consumption of Alcohol, seconded by McGrath. Neimes asked about visual signage or blockage, and further comments that he observed people leaving businesses with open containers and walking down & across the street. The Mayor suggested calling dispatch if anyone sees someone walking down the street with an open container. Lindsey answered that visual demarcation was discussed and is required. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously. Tulowitzky asked about and discussion continued regarding visual demarcation.

Discussion & Action on Ordinance 2022-010 Removing the Covid-19 Temporary Extension of Premises Regarding the Outdoor Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages – Neimes moved to approve Ordinance #2022-010 removing the Covid-19 Temporary Extension of Premise, seconded by McGrath. Kluver stated this ordinance would go into effect 60 days after publication. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Issuing a Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage License Authorizing Notice for Karlyn/Yellowbird Gallery, at 318 W. Bayfield Street – Novachek moved to approve a Class “B” license for Karlyn Yellowbird Gallery pending completion of the Primary Entrance & Final Inspection by the Washburn Police Department, seconded by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 6:42PM.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

Committee Members Karen Spears-Novachek & Mary McGrath reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.