

September 13, 2021

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote

City Council Members:

Present, in-person:

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

Present, remote:

Laura Tulowitzky

Municipal Personnel:

Present in-person:

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

Present, remote:

none

Absent:

Jennifer Maziasz

**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 August 9, 2021** - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the August 9, 2021 minutes of the City Council, second by Neimes. Motion carried, with Broberg abstaining.

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

**Public Comment** – No public comment was received.

**Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments-** The Mayor announced the ribbon cutting ceremony for the National Scenic Byway Designation would be that Wednesday. She further noted that this is the 8<sup>th</sup> national designation in Bayfield County. The Mayor then stated that public input meetings with the DOT will occur on October 6 & 7 for the Phase 1 Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project; and that a special session will be held for business owners effected by the project. She added that the community branding project will be wrapping up soon and asked for photos capturing the essence of life in Washburn. The Mayor proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and read the proclamation. The Mayor concluded with noting the resignation of John Baregi from the Plan Commission and the Harbor Commission, and thanking him for his longtime service to the community. She then nominated the appointments of Felix Kalinowski to the Plan Commission and Matt Crowell to the Harbor Commission. McGrath moved to appoint Kalinowski to Plan Commission and appoint Crowell to Harbor Commission, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing, Discussion & Action on Resolution 21-007 to Vacate South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West from Omaha Street North to the Alley (140 feet), Mark McGinley and Rick Gruebele – Petitioners** – Neimes moved to open public hearing regarding Resolution 21-007, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously. No public comments were received. Anderson moved to close public hearing, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously. McGrath moved to approve Resolution 21-007 to vacate S. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Allowance of Additional Primary Structure on Property 19 W. Bayfield Street – Olson Building Materials, Inc., Petitioner** – Dick Olson stated they are looking to build a dry storage warehouse (30'x52') on the east side and detached of the main building. Mr. Olson stated that the building would be approximately 56 feet from the sidewalk, and it would still need State approval. The Mayor stated that the concept of a second building would need Council approval, but that it would still need to go to Plan Commission for approval. Novachek moved to approve the additional primary structure for Olson Building Materials with final drawings reviewed by the Plan Commission, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Ordinance 21-004 to Regulate the Operation of Short-Term Rentals** – Melissa Martinez, Washburn Chamber of Commerce, thanked the council and city administration for discussing with and listening to concerns. Ms. Martinez then stated support for this current draft ordinance. Novachek moved to approve Ordinance 21-004 to Regulate the Operation of Short-Term Rentals, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried, with McGrath abstaining.

**Presentation, Discussion, and Referral to Personnel/Finance Committee of 2022 General Fund Operating, Capital, and Debt Service Budgets** – McGrath moved to refer the 2022 General Fund, Capital & Debt Service Budgets to the Personnel/Finance Committee, seconded by Novachek. Neimes questioned the yurt construction identified in the Park Designated Fund and suggested a campground expansion which includes water and sewer hook-ups. Discussion continued regarding this, as well as other items identified in the Park Designated Fund. Anderson, and the Mayor, expressed the importance of tourism to the Washburn economy. Discussion next focused on increasing the Room Tax from 6.5% to 8% to capture a little more revenue from tourism. This would also need to be a discussion with the Town of Bayview as they are part of the Room Tax Commission. It was noted that the City only receives 10% of the collected room tax, the majority goes to the Washburn Chamber of Commerce. Kluver stated that an increase in room tax would create additional income. He further explained the revenue sources for the City, identifying that about a third of income comes through property tax. Motion carried unanimously. During discussion, Neimes had asked about advertising. Martinez commented that tourism is not advertised locally it is done so in other parts of the state and out of state, and it has been increased in the past few years, to get people to come to Washburn.

**Discussion & Action on Agreement with Washburn Professional Police Association Local 210 on Wages for 2022 and 2023** – Novachek commented of the lag in wages of the police compared to surrounding communities. Through negotiations with the WPPA union, the Personnel/Finance Committee agreed to a wage of \$27.25 for 2022, with a 2.5% increase (\$27.93) for 2023. Novachek moved to accept the agreement with WPPA Local 210 on wages for 2022 & 2023, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Resolution 21-008 to Authorize a Tax Levy Referendum to Fund Emergency Services Staffing and Operational Needs During the Spring 2022 Election** – The Mayor noted last month's Council discussion, along with reasons for moving forward with a tax levy. Novachek suggested increasing the amount from \$170,400 to \$200,000 to better meet the needs. McGrath stated concern if the needs strayed away from the original discussion of funding for emergency services. Attorney Lindsey commented that its important to identify where and how the funding will be spent. Neimes moved to approve Resolution 21-008 authorizing a Tax Levy Referendum to fund Emergency Service Staffing and Operational Needs at the amount identified (\$170,400), seconded by Novachek. Discussion continued on operational needs and language of the referendum. Lindsey suggested to be as detailed as possible in the language. Neimes amended his motion to approve Resolution 21-008 authorizing a Tax Levy Referendum to fund Emergency Service Staffing at the amount identified (\$170,400) for two Full-Time EMTs and adjusted Police wages, amendment accepted by Novachek. Anderson stated concern that as costs and competitiveness of wages increases, \$170,400 might not be enough in a few years. Discussion continued on future inflation and community needs. McGrath stated support of increasing the amount to \$200,000. Tulowitzky commented that regardless of the amount, the specifics need to be identified. Motion failed two (2) to four (4); Neimes, Broberg voting in favor; McGrath, Novachek, Anderson. Tulowitzky voting against. Novachek moved to direct staff to provide an update and additional needs for the referendum at next month's meeting, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Issuance of Alcohol Licenses for Santa Leyenda LLC, at 901 W. Bayfield Street, Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage and "Class C" Wine; and 211 Martini LLC, at 211 W. Bayfield Street, Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage** – Novachek moved to approve the issuance of a Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage and "Class C" Wine Licenses for Santa Leyenda upon inspection and a Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License for 211 Martini, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Authorizing Notices for Scare Crow Pizza LLC, at 905 W. Bayfield Street, for Issuance of a Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License and for Issuance of a Class C Wine Alcohol License** – McGrath moved to approve the notice for a Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License and "Class C" Wine License for Scare Crow Pizza, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by McGrath, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:08PM.

Tony Janisch  
Assistant City Administrator

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm**

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