

December 9, 2019

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM Washburn City Hall

Present: City Council Members: Karen Spears-Novachek, Laura Tulowitzky, Jennifer Maziasz, Tom Neimes, Carl Broberg

Municipal Personnel: Mayor Richard Avol, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, City Attorney Max Lindsey, Director of Public Works Bob Anderson

Excused Absence: Mary McGrath, Aaron Austin

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:35PM by Mayor Avol. 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 November 18, 2019 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the November 18, 2019– minutes, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures- A motion was made by Novachek to approve the monthly expenditures as reviewed, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote of all five (5) councilors in attendance.

Public Comment – Sean Meeker, Washburn, stated that he attends Washburn High School and there is talk about charging a fee for Book Across the Bay. He is part of two groups that volunteer at the Book and financially benefit from the Book. He asked the Council to consider the clubs and organizations that volunteer and help-out, then benefit financially from the Book. Madeline Blong, Ashland, stated that she is also a member of several groups that help-out with Book Across the Bay. She believes the contributions the City should put into the Book Across the Bay is very important and considering the students that all contribute to the event and benefit from it, it’s important to continue to fund the event. Ian Meeker, 116 E 4th St., stated that he was speaking for Dalt Collins who could not attend, but who had prepared numbers of the economic impact the Book has on the area. The City does have shared expenses, but the event does bring in a lot of people. He didn’t want something to start that might discourage Washburn possibly losing the finish line, because it’s a really important part for the community.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor nominated Kristy Jensch for reappointment to the Washburn Housing Authority. A motion was made by Novachek to approve Kristy Jensch’s reappointment to the Washburn Housing Authority Board term expiring 2024, second by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously. The Mayor nominated Adeline Swiston, Cheryl Follis, Linda Ovaska, Pauline Jimenez, Sherri Swiston, Susan Nieman, Lu Ann Opperman, Michelle McCumber, Florence Hagstrom, Valerie Dandeneau, Caroline Nelson, Karen Guski, Donald Niles Eilertsen, Sharon Hacker, Pat Bruno to the Election Board. A motion was made by Broberg to appoint the named individuals to the Election Board for a two-year term expiring 12/31/2021, second by Maziasz. Motion passed unanimously. Avol next noted a vacancy on the Harbor Commission. The Mayor then read a statement complimenting the efforts of Police, EMT, Fire Dept., Public Works and City office staff, as well as private individuals, during the recent heavy snowstorm.

Presentation by Charles Gable and Dave Bell on their Interest in the Brokedown Building at 204 W. Bayfield St. – It was noted that Gable and Bell were unable to attend due to the weather. No presentation or discussion occurred.

Discussion & Action on Amendment to Water and Sewer Credit Policy – No discussion. Moved by Novachek to approve the proposed amendment the Water & Sewer Credit Policy, second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on 2020 Pay Schedule – No discussion. Moved by Broberg approve the 2020 Pay Schedule, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Proposed 2020 TID #2 and TID #3 Budgets – Maziasz questions if it was typical to use TIF funding to hire engineers, specifically referencing the Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project. Kluver responded that one of the goals of creating TID #3 was to have development occur. The TID #3 does include part of Bayfield St, including the downtown area. Part of the intention was to offset these costs. Moved by Novachek to approve the proposed 2020 TID #2 and TID #3 budgets, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution #19-014 Adopting All 2020 Budgets and Expenditures – Moved by Novachek to approve Resolution No. 19-014, second by Neimes. Maziasz questioned Council had already approved the budgets. Kluver stated that at the last meeting, Council approved the tax levy. This was the final step to budget process. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Writing-Off Certain Outstanding Ambulance Bills/Utility Bills – Moved by Broberg to write-off certain outstanding ambulance and utility bills, seconded by Maziasz. Maziasz questioned the statute of limitations and if people can just wait and not have to pay their bills. Kluver stated that these are outstanding bills that were sent to a collection agency. City Attorney Lindsey added that according to State statute we have six (6) year to collect on outstanding debt, and that in most cases we cannot locate the individuals to serve notice of debt. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on 2020 Meeting, Election, and Holiday Calendar – Moved by Novachek to approve the 2020 Meeting, Election, and Holiday Calendar, second by Neimes. Novachek noted two additional election days. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Approval of Contracts with Environmental Dynamics International, Inc. and Energenics, Inc. for Aerobic Digester Equipment Maintenance and Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant – Public Works Director Anderson stated that these upgrades feed into the energy efficiency goals for the WWTP, which included the solar arrays. Anderson further stated that replacement of this equipment would reduce electrical usages. Novachek moved to approve contracts with Environmental Dynamics International, Inc. and Energenics, Inc. for upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, seconded by Maziasz. Lindsey added that this type of contract does not require a public bidding. Kluver stated that the specific equipment is being used which require specific vendors for installation. The WWTP is currently using equipment and software from Energenics, and the company familiar with the plant. Novachek questioned experience with Environmental Dynamics International. Kluver stated no, but that the company is specific to the blower/diffusor equipment being used. Anderson included that plant operator Joel Weber does have experienced with the company. Motion carried unanimously on a roll-call vote.

Alcohol Licensing Matters – New Bartender License Applications - #21-41 Through #21-43 – A motion was made by Tulowitzky to approve New Bartender License Applications – #21-41 through #21-43, second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Broberg, seconded by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30PM

Committee Member Karen Spears Novachek reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.