

February 13, 2023

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, Carl Broberg, Dave Anderson, Laura Tulowitzky, Jennifer Maziasz

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: none

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Mayor Motiff. Roll call attendance depicted seven (7) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized.

Approval of Minutes – City Council of January 9, 2023 - A motion was made by Neimes to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes of the City Council, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Public Comment – Taura Edwards, 80765 St. Hwy 13, spoke regarding the proposed glamping project at West End Park, stating that she cares about the experience of life in the area and feels that the open space is extremely important to the people in the area. She continued that the greatest asset is the green space, and this is why people come to this community. This space is important to our sense of space, and it's an open space where children can run and for adults. Ms. Edwards continued that the enormous amount of money to build & maintain these glamping spaces and ask that this be reconsidered; and once this becomes glamping space it would be difficult for the public to enter that space. She concluded that what draws people to this area fiscally is to see this way of life that we hold so precious. With the community involved, what can we do in this space to allow all to enjoy it.

Roth Edwards, 221 W 6th St., responded to a question(s) that emerged at the Nov. 14, 2022 City Council meeting. These questions being what is this land known as Washburn's jewel, what does it mean to you, and what makes it precious to you. He added one more question, what makes this land meaningful to Washburn in terms of heritage, future, and our legacy. Mr. Edwards continued by reading to Council from a handout he presented to them regarding these questions. He concluded that the City is majority rule and if so desired, an ordinance can be established that no lands owned by the City may be converted to commercial use without being approved by a binding referendum.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments - The Mayor thanked the Parks Committee for hosting two public input sessions to further discuss and share ideas and thoughts for campground expansion at the West End Park open field. She further mentioned that on Feb. 23rd the City will be holding two public meetings for Phase 2 of the Bayfield St. Reconstruction Project and that more information and details are on the website. The Mayor concluded that the City's draft Comprehensive Plan has been completed and to look for a public hearing this Spring. It is a long document but has a lot of good information.

Discussion & Action on Draft Certified Survey Map and Utility Easement for Tax IDs 32664 and 33446 in the 300 and 400 Blocks of East 6th Street – Churness and Beilfuss, Petitioners – Kluver presented the project. Anderson moved to approve the Certified Survey Map for Tax IDs 32664 & 33446, seconded by Tulowitzky. Kluver noted that Utility Easement should be included in the motion. Anderson amended his motion to approve the Certified Survey Map and Utility Easement for Tax IDs 32664 & 33446, Tulowitzky agreed to this amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Request to Purchase Lot 49 (Tax ID 38430) on Fortier Road – John Sopiwnik, Petitioner – Novachek asked about the six-year window for construction being requested. Sopiwnik responded to have adequate time for planning and financing of construction. Discussion continued. Sopiwnik concluded that he renovated the Hawks Building in the city and is very competent and able to construct at this lot. Further discussion is moved to closed session.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 23-004 to Apply for Community Development Investment (CDI) Grant for Brewing Badger LLC and Redevelopment of Property at 204/206 W. Bayfield Street – Novachek moved to approve Resolution 23-004 applying for a CDI grant, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 23-003 for Harbor Commission Budget Amendment #1 to Pay Off BCPL Loan Issue 02020011.01 One Year Early – Broberg moved to approve Resolution 23-003 amending the Harbor Commission budget, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Amendment to Agreement with Ayres & Associates for Add-Alternate Projects for Phase 1 of the Bayfield Street Project – Novachek moved to approve amendments to Ayres & Associates agreement to add alternate projects for the Bayfield St. Phase 1 Project, seconded by Neimes. Novachek stated appreciation for the presentation of these alternate projects at last month's Council Meeting, finding it very helpful. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on 2023 Administration Goals and Objectives; Review of 2022 Goals – Kluver began discussion with a review of the 2022 goals. The Mayor noted the accomplishments of ambulance staffing and the sewer line reroute for Iron Works but expressed disappointment with sidewalks. Maziasz questioned the timeline for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in April and if there was enough time for public meetings to collect comment. Kluver responded that the Plan Commission will discuss the Comprehensive Plan later in the week and if a resolution for support is approved, this will allow for 30 days of notification to hold a Public Hearing at the April Council meeting. Kluver presented the 2023 goals, noting the priorities of the Bayfield St. Reconstruction Phase 1 & Phase 2, planning for a borrowing for these projects, and a Revaluation Project of properties which was last done 18 years ago. Kluver further mentioned the day-to-day tasks that occur at City Hall, to give a sense of the daily operations. Maziasz questioned why the Bayfield Co. Housing Development was not identified as a priority. Kluver responded that the project is dependent on a WEDC grant, if not received it would be on hold for the next years grant application. He did add that amenities for the housing project, such as sidewalks, will be included in Bayfield St. Phase 2 planning. Discussion continued. Neimes moved to approve the 2023 Administrative Goals and Review of 2022 Goals, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried six (6) to one (1), Maziasz voting against.

Closed Session –

- **Consideration of Sale of Property – Request to Purchase Lot 49 (Tax ID 38430) on Fortier Road –** A motion was made by Neimes to go into closed session at 6:55PM pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (c), for consideration of Sale of Property, following which the Council may reconvene in open session to take any action that may be necessary on the closed session items, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

A motion was made by Novachek to reconvene in open session at 7:22PM, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Novacek moved to approve the sale of Lot 49 to Sopiwnik for \$36,000 with a five-year window to construct a livable duplex, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session –

- **Personnel Matters – Evaluation of the City Administrator** – A motion was made by Neimes to go back into closed session at 7:29PM pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (c), for evaluation of the City Administrator, following which the Council may reconvene in open session to take any action that may be necessary on the closed session items, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

An annual review of the City Administrator was conducted. No motion was made.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 8:18PM.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

Committee Members Karen Spears-Novachek & Laura Tulowitzky reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.