

February 8, 2021

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote Call-In

City Council Members:

Present, in-person:

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

Present, remote:

Jennifer Maziasz

Municipal Personnel:

Present in-person:

Mayor Mary D. Motiff, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver,
Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, Director of
Ambulance Service Dan Clark.

Present, remote:

City Attorney Max Lindsey, Director of Public Works Gerry
Schuette

Absent:

none

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:31PM 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 Meeting of January 11, 2021 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes of the City Council with the corrections noted, second by Neimes. 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 roll-call vote.

Public Comment – Vince Kurta, Ashland, stated that he is a candidate for Bayfield County Circuit Court Judge. Mr. Kurta introduced himself and explained why he was running for judge and hoped to present to Council at a future meeting. John French, Lakewood, commented on the ordinance restricting commercial businesses. Mr. French identified the wording used for the reason of the ordinance because of a problem at the beach, obviously referencing a beach being utilized for commercial purposes. He continued that nobody spread Covid there, unlike the Harbor View Event Center which held a super-spreader event and has several permits, and the City took no action. Mr. French further commented on a business in the City that took advantage of the elderly by soliciting insurance. He continued that these businesses still operate, but the City took issue with kayaks launching from a beach that spread no Covid. Mr. French concluded that if the ordinance is passed, he would seek an injunction from a judge.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor began by stating there is still time to request an absentee ballot, early in-person voting ends on Friday and the election is on Tuesday, Feb. 16th. The Mayor noted that the community branding initiative with UW-Madison, Division of Extension will be starting in March, including some elements of a downtown market analysis. The Mayor stated that she attended her first meeting as a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, representing one of the smallest communities on the board. She further noted a special Plan Commission meeting on Thursday to begin the Comprehensive Plan Update. She concluded with the re-appointment of Rick Gruebele back to the Harbor Commission. Novachek moved to re-appoint Rick Gruebele to Harbor Commission, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by Bayfield County Judge Anderson – Judge Anderson introduced himself to Council including his experience as a lawyer in Washburn for 14 years, serving as City Attorney for part of this; as well as serving as Bayfield County Judge for 18 years and serving as Deputy Chief Judge for the region. Anderson noted that he is up for re-election and would like to continue his success in building relationships, working together and reducing recidivation. Anderson concluded with an announcement of the creation of a dashboard of data and information to measure what is being done with the juvenile justice system.

A motion was made by Novachek to amend the agenda and move up discussion of EMT compensation, second by Niemes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Recommendation to Provide Bonus Compensation for Qualifying EMTs – Discussion began with Director Dan Clark stating the challenges that occurred in 2020 with the Covid pandemic. There were a larger than normal number of ambulance calls, with less staffing available to service them. Clark noted that there were 10 EMTs that went above & beyond to respond to a substantial number of calls. Novachek included that the Personnel Committee had met and wants to recognize the extra effort of these EMTs during a difficult time, and the committee recommends that \$4,500 (\$450/each) be used as bonus compensation. Novachek moved to authorize bonus compensation for qualifying EMTs, seconded by Tulowitzky. Motion carried 6-0-1, Broberg abstaining.

Update, Discussion & Action on Ordinance 21-002 Amending the City’s Code of Ordinances to Regulate Commercial Activity on City Property – The Mayor noted that a listening session was held the week prior, there were some suggestions to be added and a revised ordinance will come back to Council as a later date. Maziasz suggested listening to the recording of the meeting. Anderson moved to postpone decision of Ordinance 21-002 until it is ready, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Western Boundary of Decorative Light Poles for the Phase 1 Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project in 2024 – The Mayor began by noting the survey she initiated to gauge public interest and input in decorative street lighting, which showed the desire to extend lighting as far as possible. Administrator Kluver explained that there are three zoning districts along the project area; Washington Ave. to 4th Ave.W, 4th Ave.W to 8th Ave.W, and 8th Ave.W out. The Mayor continued stating that the DOT will cover a portion of the costs, but that the City would have to pay for any upgrade in street lighting. Discussion ensued. Director Schutte added that decorative poles would be owned by the city, which includes all of the maintenance. Discussion shifted to lighting on the other portion of Bayfield St. and the differences with going to DOT standard lighting or staying with the current Xcel lighting. Maziasz urged to consider the transition from standard street lighting to the decorative lighting. Neimes moved to approve 6th Ave.W as the western boundary for decorative light poles of the Phase 1 Bayfield St. Reconstruction Project in 2024, seconded by Anderson. Tulowitzky stated that it makes more sense to stick with Zoning Districts, either at 4th Ave.W or 8th Ave.W, rather than arbitrarily choosing between. Motion carried 6-1, Tulowitzky voting against.

Discussion & Action on Left Turn Lane Design Options for Phase 1 Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project in 2024 at the Intersections of Washington Avenue and 3rd Avenue West – Neimes stated that business did not want parking taken away. Novachek stated that Option 1 retained most on-street parking. Novachek moved to approve Option 1 for Left Turn Lane design for Phase 1 of the Bayfield St. Reconstruction Project, seconded by Broberg. The Mayor added that in a discussion with the IGA, they prefer keeping parking along the street in front and prefer Option 1. Anderson questioned how much parking would be lost. Kluver stated that one parking spot would be lost in front of Coco’s regardless of which option was chosen. He continued that City Hall may lose some spots as well as in front on the Midland Station. The Mayor included that semi traffic for the IGA turn at 3rd Ave.W and enter back onto the highway at Washington Ave. Motion carried 6-0-1, Neimes abstaining.

Discussion & Action on Administration Goals and Objectives for 2021, Review of 2020 Goals – Discussion began with a review of 2020 goals and accomplishments. The Mayor noted the challenges soon faced in 2020 with the pandemic, along with five elections and the staff shortage. Kluver introduced 2021 goals which include: Bayfield St. Reconstruction Project, Ambulance Staffing, Development of the Brokedown Building, Library Tuckpoint Project, Comprehensive Plan Update, along with finishing Meter Replacement, Marina Pier 1 and Police Contract. Novachek moved to approve without priority the 2021 Goal & Objectives, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session –

- **To Negotiate and Confer with Legal Council on Request for Relief on an Existing Agreement with Pearl Beach Construction Related to the Previously Purchased Lot 47 at the SW Corner of the Intersection of Harbor View Drive and Central Avenue**
 - **Personnel Matters – Evaluation of the City Administrator**
- A motion was made by Novachek to go into closed session at 7:50PM pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (c), to negotiate and confer with legal counsel on request for relief on an existing agreement with

Pearl Beach Construction related to the previously purchased Lot 47 at the SW corner of the intersection of Harbor View Drive and Central Avenue, and to discuss personnel matters – 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 McGrath. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 8:38PM.

Tony Janisch, Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

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