

May 18, 2020

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM

Washburn City Hall & Remote Call-In

City Council Members:

Present, in-person:

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

Present, remote:

Jennifer Maziasz

Municipal Personnel:

In-person:

Mayor Mary D. Motiff, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver,
Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, City Attorney Max
Lindsey, Fire Department Chief Mike Pedersen

Present, remote:

None

Excused Absence:

None

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:34PM by Mayor Motiff. Roll call attendance depicted six (6) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized. Maziasz joined meeting after rollcall.

Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting of April 13, 2020 & April 21, 2020 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the April 13 & 21, 2020 minutes of the City Council, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures- No expenditures were presented for approval.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor made the following proclamations, noting that National Skilled Nursing Care Week and National Police Week occurred the week prior and Emergency Medical Services Week occurring this week. The Mayor expressed extra recognition for these three groups noting that the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the risk of these workers to carry out their duties. Mayor Motiff further proclaimed the Week of the Young Child which has been adjusted to occur in June. The Mayor’s final proclamation is in Honoring Washburn High School Class of 2020 Graduates, noting that the pandemic has also altered their final year of high school.

Discussion & Action on Proposed Survey Map for Block 89 of the Original Townsite of Washburn Affecting Tax IDs 33493 and 33494 – Kristy Jensch, Petitioner – Kristy Jensch was present via web conferencing to answer any questions. Moved by McGrath to approve the proposed survey map for Block 89 affecting Tax IDs 33493 and 33494 contingent that taxes are paid in full, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Request to Extend Driveway Width – Clayton Russell, Petitioner – Mayor Motiff stated that she contacted Mr. Russell for further information regarding the request. She shared from Mr. Russell that when an adjoining landowner added onto a house, a basement sump pump causes excessive wetting or flooding to the Russell property because of how the drainage is. Moved by McGrath to approve the request to extend the driveway width at the Russell parcel, seconded by Broberg. Tulowitzky asked if the problem occurs because of a sump pump, shouldn’t it be resolved with the neighbor. Assistant Administrator Tony Janisch stated that in discussion of this issue with former Public Works Director Bob Anderson, he felt that the driveway extension was the best solution moving forward. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Russell was attending the meeting via web conferencing and offered a thank you to Council through the chat option.

Discussion & Action on Disposal of Fire Department Brush Truck – Fire Department Chief Mike Petersen was present to answer any questions. Moved by Novachek to approve the disposal of the Fire Dept. brush truck with a minimum price set at \$2,000 and negotiations can occur with the Town of LaPointe, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 20-008 – Approving Submission of a DNR Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for a Portion of the Biking/ATV/Snowmobile Trail in the City of Washburn – No discussion occurred. Moved by McGrath to approve submission of a DNR Recreation Trails grant proposal for the City, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action on Approval of Contract with Dallenbach, Anich & Wickman, S.C. for Municipal Attorney Services with Max Lindsey as Primary Counsel – No discussion occurred. Moved by Broberg to approve the contract for municipal attorney services, seconded by Neimes. City Attorney Lindsey stated that the firm name is now Anich, Wickman & Lindsey. Motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol Licensing Matters – Discussion & Action on Request to Reduce Alcohol License Fees Due to Covid-19 – The Mayor stated that a request was made by a Dan Doman representative of Ashland/Bayfield Co. Tavern League for a reduction of Alcohol Licensing Fees. Discussion ensued regarding a reduction in fees, separating discussion on alcohol licensing vs. operator licensing. Moved by Neimes to reduce Alcohol Licensing Fees by 50% for this current year only and with Operator Licensing Fees remaining the same, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol Licensing Matters – Introduction of Annual Alcohol and Beer Garden License Renewal Applications Program – Assistant Administrator Janisch explained the process of alcohol licensing renewal. Moved by McGrath to direct City Staff to begin the Alcohol Licensing Renewal process, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Training on Open Meeting and Open Record Laws – City Attorney Lindsey presented a tutorial of Wisconsin Public Record Laws, directing attention to the supplement included with the Council Packet.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 6:32PM.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator