

August 9, 2021

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, Dave Anderson, Mary McGrath

Present, remote:

Jennifer Maziasz

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, Acting Director of Ambulance Services Jeff Bellile

Present, remote:

none

Absent:

Carl Broberg, Laura Tulowitzky

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:31PM by Mayor Motiff. 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 July 12, 2021 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the July 12, 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 pending final review, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously via roll-call vote.

Public Comment – Scott Griffiths, 1404 N. Bratley Dr., past mayor of Washburn, spoke in favor of a referendum for emergency services. Griffith noted that when he was mayor, the City was also facing an EMT shortage, leading him to sign up and now serving seven (7) years as an EMT. Griffiths continued that with the size of Washburn, and the number of ambulance calls received, it was no longer sustainable to operate with a volunteer service. A small number of EMTs take the vast majority of calls and call shifts. He added that the community is aging, and ambulance service is seeing a decrease in the number of call shifts being staffed. He believes that the majority of citizens believe that when they call 911 an ambulance would arrive shortly, but they are finding that this is not necessarily the case. Griffiths mentioned that a recruitment event was recently held at the Ambulance Hall with only one person attending; then described a possible situation/scenario of a failed response call at a high school basketball game. Griffiths concluded that no one wants their property tax to go up, but to think of this as insurance for a needed emergency service.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor announced that a public input meeting will be this Fall to review a draft of the Phase 1 Bayfield Street Reconstruction Project. The noted that a special session will be held for business owners effected by the project. The Mayor concluded with the re-appointment of Roy Halverson for a second term to the Housing Authority and the appointment of City Administrator Scott Kluver, as city representative, to the Bayfield County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee. McGrath moved to re-appoint Halverson to Housing Authority and appoint Kluver to the Bayfield Co. EMS Advisory Committee, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Proposed Certified Survey Map for Properties at the End of Summit Avenue – Anthony Jennings, Petitioner – McGrath moved to approve the certified survey map for the properties at the end of Summit Ave., seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Conditional Use Permit Application to Operate and Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Establishment at 130 W. Harbor View Drive, MUW District – Washburn Development Property LLC, Petitioner – The Mayor noted comments provided by Broberg, who could not attend the meeting, that boat slip owners should have been notified of this request as well, since the Washburn Marina is adjacent to this property and itself has an established quite time. The Mayor also pointed out that the Mixed-Use Waterfront District does not have a specific time for noise in the ordinance. Novachek added that the understanding is that Council can put a time limit on the conditional use permit. Neimes suggested a 10:30pm

as an option for quite time. Kluver stated that 10:00pm is the time for the Residential District. Novachek suggested mirroring the residential time of 10:00pm since there are residents in nearby apartments, condos and the boat slips. Anderson moved to approve the conditional use permit with a 10:00pm noise curfew to operate indoor and outdoor entertainment at 130 W. Harbor View Dr., seconded by Novachek. The Mayor then asked if there would be a limit to the number of events held. Maziasz stated that the request actual states to do outdoors what is done indoors, there were no specifics, and she would like a clearer idea of what is actually being requested. Attorney Lindsey commented that Council could limit the number of events. Discussion continued. The Mayor added that there are no restrictions with number of events on other businesses in town. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Conditional Use Permit Application to have Tourist Rooming Unit Located at 228 W. 4th St, R-6 District – William Scripps, Petitioner – The Mayor stated that City is very limited with how it can regulate this type of request. Novachek moved to approve the conditional use permit for a tourist rooming unit at 228 W. 4th St. and accepting the Plan Commissions decision of permitting, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Sewer Main Relocation Project Development Agreement with Washburn Iron Works, Inc. and Bayfield County and Discussion & Action on TID #3 Development Agreement with Washburn Iron Works, Inc. for Facility Expansion – Lindsey stated that there have been some minor changes to the draft agreements presented. He continued that it was assumed there were two (2) phases of construction, but there is actually one (1) phase with the completion date of Dec. 31, 2024. Novachek moved to approve both agreements, the Sewer Main Relocation Project Development with the noted completion date adjustment and the TID #3 Development with Washburn Iron Works, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried; McGrath abstained.

Discussion & Action on Right of Way Encroachment Permit at 112 S. Washington Avenue, Nick Wills and Noreen Ovadia-Wills, Petitioner – The Mayor reviewed the five conditions for approval identified regarding this request. Novachek moved to approve the right of way encroachment permit for 112 S. Washington Ave., seconded by McGrath. Kluver noted that in researching this matter uncovered a 1920 court decision that changed where the right of way was, in favor of the petitioner. Needing a surveyor to determine the new right of way location, Kluver felt it safest to continue forward with this request. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Personnel/Finance Committee Recommendation to Pursue Tax Levy Referendum to Fund Ambulance Staffing and Potentially Other Staffing/Operational Needs – The Mayor directed Council's attention to comments provided by Broberg. The Mayor noted that many communities around the State share concerns of EMS staffing. She also noted funding concerns in part from the State decreasing Shared Revenue over time as well as Tax Levy limits that do not keep up with the rate of inflation. The Mayor further noted the record number of ambulance calls received in 2020 with less staffing because of the pandemic. The Mayor concluded with the recommendation of the Personnel/Finance Committee to hire two (2) full-time EMTs to cover the day-time hours, and to better incentivize the paid on-call EMTs that cover the remaining hours. Acting Director of Ambulance Services Bellile shared concerns of staffing and the difficulties with recruitment. Discussion ensued. Novachek moved to pursue a tax levy referendum to fund public safety needs for the April 2022 Election, seconded by McGrath. Masiasz stated the need for a FAQ sheet and talking points. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on 2021 Capital Budget Amendment #1 – The Mayor noted this amendment is a follow-up action from approving the 10th Ave resurfacing contract last month, where bids came in higher than what was budgeted. Novachek moved to approve Amendment #1 to the 2021 capital budget, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Goose Control Efforts at West End Park/Treatment Plan Area – Kluver stated that there are no new solutions for goose control. Anderson asked about controlling geese in the spring. Kluver stated the procedure for spring is to addle the eggs. McGrath moved to approve goose control efforts at West End Park and the Treatment Plant, seconded by Neimes. Maziasz suggested no control actions on weekends when the campgrounds were busiest. Kluver added the City follows the State goose hunting season and the first part of September allows for five (5) geese per day, while the last half allows only one (1) per day. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Authorizing Notices for Santa Leyenda LLC, at 901 W. Bayfield Street, for Issuance of a “Class C” Alcohol License; and 211 Martini LLC, at 211 W. Bayfield Street for Issuance of a Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage License – McGrath moved to approve the notice for a “Class C” Wine License for Santa Leyenda and a Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage License for 211 Martini, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session –

- **Consideration of Appeal of an Operating License Denial – Noah Suggs, Petitioner**
- **Discussion on Wages and Negotiating Points for the Washburn Professional Police Association Contract**

– A motion was made by Novachek to go into closed session at 6:48PM pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1)(c), to consider the appeal of an Operating License denial – Noah Suggs, Petitioner and for discussion on wage and negotiating points for the Washburn Professional Police Association contract, second by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Mr. Suggs addressed Council regarding the denial of his application for an Operator’s License. Discussion occurred. Novachek moved to grant an Operator’s License to Noah Suggs, seconded Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Mayor Motiff adjourned the meeting at 7:11PM.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30pm

Committee Member Karen Spears-Novachek reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.