

August 14, 2017

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM Washburn City Hall

Present: City Council Members: Mary McGrath, Richard Avol, Jeremy Oswald, John Gary, Robert Arquette, Mary Nowakowski

Municipal Personnel: Mayor Scott A. Griffiths, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, City Attorney Siegler, Assistant City Administrator Dan Stoltman

Excused Absence: Jennifer Maziasz

**Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Mayor Griffiths. Roll call attendance depicted six (6) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized.

**Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting July 10, 2017 & July 17, 2017 Board of Review**– Nowakowski noted a spelling error on page two of the Council minutes. She stated that “its” should be “it’s” A motion was made by Avol to approve the July 10, 2017 & July 17, 2017 Board of Review minutes with the stated correction, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Expenditures-** A motion to approve the monthly expenditure vouchers made by Nowakowski, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote of all six (6) councilors in attendance.

**Public Comment** – None

**Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments** – Mayor Griffiths stated that the Harbor Commission, Library Board, Housing Authority, and Historic Preservation Commission had openings. The Mayor spoke on the protesting taking place Charlottesville VA. The Mayor went on the record denouncing the acts of the white supremacists group(s).

**Discussion and Action on Recommendation to Approve Conditional Use Permit for a Tourist Rooming House at 325 Washington Avenue – Jodi Supanich/Washburn Meditation Center, Inc., Petitioner** – The Mayor gave an overview and stated the Plan Commission had approved it. Attorney Siegler stated that the following language from the Plan Commissions approval needed to be added to CUP permit language IF Council approved the permit and agreed with the reasoning “The Commission confirmed the size of the parcel was not an issue, the use is compatible, the location of the use on the property is not a concern, traffic safety should not be a problem, it is a suitable additional use, there are no negative impacts on the environment known of, concerns with impacts on the neighbors were discussed and guest rules will be posted to help address these concerns, and it would not impede the normal development”. A motion was made by Avol to approve the Conditional Use Permit for a tourist rooming house at 325 Washington Avenue – Jodi Supanich/Washburn Meditation Center, Inc., Petitioner, with the additional language from the Plan Commission approval stated as stated above, second by Nowakowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Action on Offer to Purchase Lot 30 on the City’s Property Inventory List (Tax ID 37077) or the South ½ of Lot 31 on the City’s Property Inventory List (Tax ID 36799) – Fishnote Properties, LLC, Petitioner** – Mayor Griffiths gave an overview of the property. Leo Ketchum-Fish of Fishnote properties LLC, spoke. Leo stated that he anticipates the building having two offices, one for Lake Effect Builders and the other to be rented out. The building will also have space for an exercise business. He expects the building to be constructed with a steel exterior and be roughly 60x60 in total with two large garage doors. The design is not certain and is open to Councils input. Avol asked if the building would be used for storage on the inside or outside. Leo stated that it is possible the inside could be used for storage at some point. The outside wouldn’t be used for loose storage, but could be used to store trailers or equipment such as a bobcat. A discussion took place about the possible look of the building and possible landscaping features that could be used. It was stated that further discussion would take place in closed session. No motion was made.

**Discussion and Action on Offer to Purchase North ½ of Lot 31 on the City’s Property Inventory List (Tax ID 36799) – Washburn Iron Works, Petitioner** – Taylor Pearson of the Ironworks spoke. He gave an overview of the future plans to expand the business and reorganize the layout for improved efficiency of operations and what the use of the city property would play in those future plans. Avol asked if this would add any new jobs. Taylor stated that it would depend on sale numbers but has seen an increase in sales over the last year and would that if it continues more people could be hired. A discussion took place on the potential grants to help pay for the possible relocation of the sewer main. Avol asked if a match was required would the Iron Works cover that. Taylor replied they would be open to that conversation. Nowakowski asked they are open to waiting until they are ready to develop the land before purchasing. Taylor stated that they would not be. They want the ability to be flexible and move quickly when they are ready. A discussion took place on the wellhead protection of the zoning code. Kluver stated that the code would have to be amended and that property being included in that zone was an oversight. No motion was made.

**Discussion and Action on Modifications to Land-Sale Ordinance** – The Mayor gave an overview of the topic. Avol asked if there would be a designation indicating that certain property is “for sale” or “sale for redevelopment”. Kluver stated that there would be a designation between the two types. A motion was made by Avol to direct city attorney Siegler to draft an ordinance that modifies the current Land-Sale Ordinance to reflect the changes outlined in Administrator Kluver’s memo, second by Nowakowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Action on Options Related to the Structure/Duties of the Historic Preservation Commission** – The Mayor gave an overview and discussed the trouble in finding members. Options were discussed. It was stated that the City Council could take over the duties of the HPC by which dissolving the commission, reducing the number of members so a quorum can more regularly be achieved, or appoint members of the City Council the HPC to make up the balance of needed members. Avol stated he is in favor of the City Council taking over the role of the HPC. Nowakowski discussed losing potential grant funding for historic preservation projects if they eliminate the HPC as by stated attorney Siegler. Attorney Siegler stated that the Council could leave the current ordinance as is but change the makeup of the HPC to state that the members of the City Council are the members of the HPC, grant funding would still be available. Council would meet as the HPC to conduct business, and adjourn before going into the regular City Council meeting. Council directed Siegler to draft an ordinance allowing the HPC to continue but with City Council members making up that body. No motion was made.

**Discussion and Action on Ordinance 17-010 Delegating Limited Contracting Authority to the City Administrator** – No discussion took place. A motion was made by Nowakowski to approve Ordinance 17-010, second by Gary. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Action on Policy for Park Event Approvals** – No discussion took place. A motion was made by Arquette to approve the policy for park event approvals as stated in the packet, second by Avol. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Action on Allowing a Goose Control Hunt at West End Park / Treatment Plant** – A discussion took place on the details of the hunt. It was stated that the geese do not go to waste and are eaten. It was stated that while no one method works one hundred percent, the hunt makes a dramatic improvement. Gary asked who controlled the hunt. It was stated that Washburn Police Chief Johnson is responsible for the hunt. It was stated that notice will go out to campers prior to the hunt. A motion was made by Avol to open the floor, second by Nowakowski. Motion carried unanimously. John Baregi spoke on the goose hunt. He stated that the hunt is conducted in a safe and responsible manner. The geese are not randomly hunted but they look for the mated pairs. A motion was made by McGrath to approve the goose hunt at West End Park / Treatment Plant, second by Avol. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by McGrath to close the floor, second by Oswald. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Action on Releasing Bid for Re-Roofing of Brokedown Palace at 204/206 W. Bayfield St. –**

A discussion took place on the pros and cons of patching vs replacing the roof. A discussion took place on whether to add to the bid the option to repair or replace. It was asked if the city has received any real interest in the building. Kluver stated no. A discussion took place regarding possible asbestos remediation. It was stated that bids would have to come back to Council for approval regardless whether they decide to replace the roof or not. A motion was made by Oswald to approve the release of the bid for re-roofing the Brokedown Palace at 204/206 W. Bayfield St., second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and Action on Authorization to Hire for Public Works Position –** A discussion took place on the position. Avol asked if we didn't hire the position as mechanic, who would do for that work. Kluver stated that the city would have to contract that work out. An analysis would have to be performed to determine if hiring a new position and contracting out the mechanic work is financially viable. A motion was made by Avol to approve the authorization to hire a Public Works position, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

**Alcohol Licensing Matters - Bartender License Applications - #19 – 37 through 38 –** No discussion took place. A motion was made by McGrath to approve bartender license application #19-37 through 38, second by Arquette. Motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session Items –** A motion was made by Avol to go into closed session at 7:10pm pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (e) for the purpose of potentially selling public property, and for upcoming contract negotiations, for which competitive and bargaining reasons require a closed session; following which the Council may reconvene in open session to take any action that may be necessary on the closed session items, second by Oswald. Motion carried unanimously.

- Negotiation on Offer to Purchase North ½ of Lot 31 on the City's Property Inventory List (Tax ID 36799)– Washburn Iron Works, Petitioner.
- Negotiation on Offer to Purchase Lot 30 on the City's Property Inventory List (Tax ID 37077) or the South ½ of Lot 31 on the City's Property Inventory List (Tax ID 36799) – Fishnote Properties, LLC, Petitioner.
- Review of Points for Upcoming Negotiation with Washburn Professional Police Association for a New Contract.

Dan Stoltman  
Assistant City Administrator

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30PM**

Committee Members Mary McGrath and Mary Nowakowski reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers