

February 12, 2018

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM Washburn City Hall

Present: City Council Members: Richard Avol, Jeremy Oswald, John Gary, Robert Arquette, Karen Spears Novachek

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

Excused Absence: Jennifer Maziasz, Mary McGrath

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Mayor Griffiths. 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 January 8, 2018– A motion was made by Avol to approve the January 8, 2018, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures- Expenditures were not approved due to lack of finance committee members.

Public Comment – None

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- None

Presentation & Discussion on Certifying the Sewer Utility Lab – City utility employee Joel Weber gave an overview of the project and discussed the cost and savings. It was stated that current staff levels are sufficient for the added work. It was stated the cities of Bayfield and Ashland currently have certified labs. No motion was made. It was stated the treatment plant will move forward with the project.

Discussion & Action on Proposed Tree and Brush Removal Project at West End Park – Public Works Director Gayla Salmi gave an overview of the project. It was stated that most of the trees being removed are dead and logging the area would not be practical. Ms. Salmi stated that the wood harvested from the area would be chopped up to be sold as firewood in the parks. No motion was made. It was stated to have the Public Works Department to move forward with the project.

Discussion & Action on Signing on to Letter to Federal Legislators Supporting Funding of Repairs Needed in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore – An overview was given on the topic. A motion was made by Novachek to approve the signing on to the letter to federal legislators supporting funding of repairs needed in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, second by Avol. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Draft Certified Survey Map of City Lot #30 in the Bounded by Omaha Street, First Avenue East, and Memorial Park Drive to Create a Lot to Sell to Fishnote Properties LLC – Kluver gave an overview. A discussion took place on the difficulties in finding record on the ownership of old railroad right of ways, which is why the city can't provide a warranty deed on the property. A motion was made by Arquette to approve the draft certified survey map of City Lot #30 in the bounded by Omaha Street, First Avenue East, and Memorial Park Drive to create a lot to sell to Fishnote Properties LLC, second by Avol. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Draft Certified Survey Map of City Lot #31 of the 1st Avenue East Business Park Area for the Creation of Two Lots to Sell One Each to the Washburn Iron Works and to Jeff Pipgras – A discussion took place on the baseball field that will be lost upon the sale of the two properties. It was stated that city staff will be working with the baseball stake holders to come up with a solution on losing one of the fields. A motion was made by Arquette to approve the draft certified survey map of City Lot #31 of the 1st Avenue East Business Park Area for the creation of two lots to sell one each to the Washburn Iron Works and to Jeff Pipgras, second by Oswald. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation, Discussion & Action on Offer by Pearl Beach Construction to Purchase City Lots #47 and #48 for the Construction of an Office and Contractors Yard at that Location – Owner of Pearl Beach Construction Karl Dornburg spoke and gave an overview of his company. Mr. Dornburg stated that no fabrication would take place, work would consist of repairs and storage. He stated noise would not be an issue. He stated that his request for lot 47 would not be a deal breaker if the request was denied. Oswald asked about the concerns coming from Harbor View. Mr. Dornburg stated that he would work with the Harbor View to alleviate any concerns with the neighboring property. Avol asked about the company

structure. Mr. Dornburg stated that it was corporation of between 30-40 employees located in Michigan and would have 8-10 new employees in Washburn. Mr. Dornburg stated that his company does not have any outside partners. A discussion took place on what Mr. Dornburg wanted from the city. He stated he would need a lease for a portion of the coal dock. A discussion took place on what the building would look like. Mr. Dornburg stated that he would follow any city zoning requirements and would consider making the end of the building facing Central Avenue look more appealing. A discussion took place on how to rezone the area for the requested use. It was stated that the property could potentially be rezoned industrial or marine. Oswald asked if the floor should be opened. A motion was made by Oswald to open the floor, second by Avol. Motion carried unanimously. Carl Broberg spoke on coal dock access for Pearl Beach Construction and that he feels it can work. Ruth Amraen asked about the Coal Dock grant and if the dock needs to be used for commercial purposes. Kluver stated that it does, but does not yet know much of the dock needs to be reserved for that use. Jeff Anderson spoke in favor of Pearl Beach Construction. A motion was made by Avol to close the floor, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously. Kluver discussed the offer is for two properties and that lot 48 is key to the deal working out. Mr. Dornburg stated that lot 48 is the needed but losing lot 47 is not a deal breaker. It was stated that Council would prefer to go into closed session to further discuss the item. No motion was made.

Discussion and Action on Administration Goals and Objectives for 2018, Review of 2017 Goals – Kluver gave an overview. Avol stated he would like to see housing and park improvements be worked on in 2018. Avol stated that he would like to see more positive interactions between the city and businesses, as well as active business development. A discussion took place on the importance of each goal and objective. A motion was made by Novachek to approve the administration goals and objectives for 2018, second by Arquette. Motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol Licensing Matters - Bartender License Applications – #19 – 45 through 46 – No discussion took place. A motion was made by Avol to approve Bartender License Applications – #19 – 45 through 46, second by Oswald. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session Items

Negotiation on Offer by Pearl Beach Construction to Purchase City Lots #47 and #48 for the Construction of an Office and Contractors Yard at that Location - Personnel Matters – Evaluation of the City Administrator- A motion was made by Avol to go into closed session at 6:59pm pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (c), for personnel matters; and (e) for the purpose of potentially selling public property, 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 Novachek. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Avol to adjourn at 8:20pm, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Stoltman
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30PM

Committee Member Richard Avol reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.