

July 8, 2019

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM Washburn City Hall

Present: City Council Members: Aaron Austin, Carl Broberg (5:35), Karen Spears-Novachek, Jennifer Maziasz, Tom Neimes, Laura Tulowitzky

Municipal Personnel: Mayor Richard Avol, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, City Attorney Max Lindsey

Excused Absence: Mary McGrath

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

**Approval of Minutes – City Council Meetings of June 10 and June 17, 2019**– A motion was made by Novachek to approve the June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17, 2019– minutes, second by Austin. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Expenditures**- A motion was made by Novachek to approve the monthly expenditures, second by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote of all five (5) councilors in attendance.

**Public Comment** – Emily Systma 103 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., asked if a weed commissioner is appointed and how to reach out about a vacant house with high grass. She is also interested in the signage discussion on the agenda and about business owners off of Bayfield St. being able to have signage on Bayfield St. directing to their business.

Broberg entered the meeting.

**Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments**- Avol announced there are openings on the Harbor Commission. Welcomed Tony Janisch as the newly appointed Assistant City Administrator.

**Discussion & Action on Recommendation to Amend the City’s Zoning Map for the Marina Storage Building Properties**– No Discussion. Moved by Tulowitzky to approve the recommendation to amend the City’s Zoning Map for the Marina Storage Building Properties, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Second Driveway Request at 601 W. 4th St. – Ethan Rossing, Petitioner** – He is requesting a second driveway to accommodate parking of a work truck and trailer currently being parked on the property. Tulowitzky questioned if this approval will be set a precedence for the future. Kluver stated that this would be on a case-by-case bases and not a blanket approval. Maziaz further questioned if these types of requests have ever been denied and if they ever go to the Plan Commission for approval. Avol stated that with his history on council, there have been very few of these types of requests. He further stated that he drove by the property and didn’t see any problems. Kluver then stated that driveways are under the public works code. Moved by Neimes to approve the second driveway request of Ethan Rossing, second by Austin. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Resolution 19-008 for the Borrowing of \$169,000 from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Trust for the Purpose of Financing Solar Panels and Energy Improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Council approved the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System and Design Project at the June 10, 2019 meeting. Reference documents included an Application for State Trust Fund Loan citing a \$169,000 loan for a 20-year term at a 4.00 % rate. Novachek referenced verbiage on page 3, the Form of Record, and questioned if the City would be levying a tax. Kluver stated that if the project did not perform appropriately, the tax levy would be responsible to cover the debt. Moved by Novachek to approve Resolution 19-008 for the borrowing of funds to finance solar panels and energy improvements at the wastewater treatment plant, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously via a roll call vote.

**Discussion & Action on Bayfield Street Way-Finding Signage – Jeff Moberg, Petitioner** – Kluver stated that this project was discussed and approved several years ago. However, at that time there was opposition and funds were not available. Funding is available now and there is a request to pursue the project with proposed changes to the sign’s texts. If approved, the project would need reapproval from the DOT before signs could be manufactured and installed. Austin questioned if other comments or feedback should be sought, specifically mentioning the Historic Preservation Committee. Tulowitzky concurred and asked the timeframe if approval was delayed. Avol stated that the timeframe is based upon DOT approval, manufacturing, and then installation. They would not be here this summer. Novachek added that the last time (2016-17) it was a 4-month turnaround just for DOT approval. Neimes encouraged not changing the name of the Coal Dock, because of local history reference. Tulowitzky moves to open floor, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Jeff Moberg stated that he doesn’t have issue with any suggested changes, just to have appropriate signage to help visitors and show pride in the amenities and assets of the community. Maziaz stated that Council previously spent a lot of time refining wording that was initially proposed, to help simplify and make easier to read. She felt that some changes could be made, and that Council could make a decision tonight, and that representation was included the first time from the historical group. She further stated that the Fishing Pier should be removed. Avol stated that there should not be a sign to the Soccer Fields because these are on private property, the remaining points are public entities. He further questioned where the Health Complex is. Novachek responded that she believes this to reference the nursing home, which is a private facility and not relevant. Tulowitzky questioned undertaking to add signs later. Kluver stated that each time would require re-permitting. Maziaz agreed and suggested removing Fishing Pier from the sign. Mary Motiff stated that the suggested changes provided are from her and that she’s conducted informal surveys with residents and businesses about wayfinding. She further stated that while residents know what the Coal Dock is, visitors would be more apt to drive there if the sign read City Dock. Maziasz moves to accept the proposed signage with the suggested changes of #1,3,4,5,6,7; removing Health Complex & Fishing Pier and excluding #2-Soccer Fields, second by Neimes. Avol suggested an amendment to the motion to change Carnegie Library to Public Library. Novachek suggested an additional amendment to change Historic Lakeshore and Walking Trail to Lakeshore and Historic Walking Trail (sign identified at Location B). Maziaz questioned why there were two different Location B sign examples in the packet. The first identifying Lake Superior, the second with Lakeshore. Kluver stated that the first example is actually the replacement the second from the original Council discussion. Maziaz accepted these friendly amendments of changes being Public Library and the first Location B example of Lake Superior, Historic Walking Trail, etc. to the motion, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Broberg moved to close the floor, second by Austin. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Ordinance 19-006 Amending to Update the Amount Charged for Violation of the Winter Parking Regulations; and Updating the Deposit Schedule to Increase Winter Parking Violations to \$30**– Moved by Novachek to adopt Ordinance No. 19-006, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Ordinance 19-007 To Update the Regulations regarding Inoperable, Wrecked, or Discarded Vehicles**– Moved by Novachek to adopt Ordinance No. 19-007, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion & Action on Renewal of Agreement with Eagle Auditing & Accounting LLC for Audit Services for 2019, 2020, and 2021, and Renewal of Agreement with Mark A. VanVlack for Accounting Services for 2019**– Motion by Broberg to renew agreements with Eagle Auditing & Accounting LLC for auditing services for 2019, 2020, 2021 and with Mark A. VanVlack for accounting services for 2019, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Alcohol Licensing Matters – New Bartender License Applications - #21-27 Through #21-31** – A motion was made by Broberg to approve New Bartender License Applications – #21-27 through #21-31, second by Maziaz. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn by Tulowitzky, seconded by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Tony Janisch  
Assistant City Administrator

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30PM**

Committee Member Karen Spears Novachek, and Aaron Austin reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.