

May 13, 2019

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM Washburn City Hall

Present: City Council Members: Aaron Austin, Carl Broberg, Karen Spears-Novachek, Jennifer Maziasz, Mary McGrath, Tom Neimes, Laura Tulowitzky

Municipal Personnel: Mayor Richard Avol, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, City Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, City Attorney Max Lindsey

Excused Absence:

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

Approval of Minutes – City Council Meetings of April 8 and April 16, 2019– A motion was made by Novachek to approve the April 8th and April 16, 2019– minutes, second by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures- A motion was made by Novachek to approve the monthly expenditures, second by Austin. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Public Comment – Jeff Silbert, 410 5th Ave. E. and Bill Bussey, Bayfield WI asking the Council to pass a resolution urging congress to support HR 73 related to climate change at the next meeting. Bill Bailey, 33430 Whiting Rd., Bayfield – Urged Council to approve the solar project, this is one of a four-tier project in the community. If the City doesn't approve this project it will cost the School and the County an additional \$27,000.00 for their projects as the bids were for a four-tiered project. Diane Posner, 119 N. 9th Ave. W., Washburn – spoke about the Friends of the Library plans for a variety of fund raisers for the Library tuck point project. Brian Fleig, 210 Woodland Dr., Washburn – Stated he represents the residents who live on Woodland Dr., they are completely opposed to having a Dog Park on Woodland Dr. or anywhere in the City and are willing to file a law suit if the City tries to go through with this. He also doesn't believe that it wouldn't be legal for the City to spend money on a Dog Park.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- Avol announced there is an opening on Harbor Commission and the resignation of Karen Guski from the Washburn Housing Authority Board. He is asking for confirmation to appoint Kristy Jensch the Washburn Housing Authority. Moved by Novachek to approve the appointment of Kristy Jensch to the Washburn Housing Authority Board, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously. Avol also read several proclamations; Arbor Day, Week of the Young Child, National Skilled Nursing Care Week, National Police Week, EMS Week, Foster Care Provider Appreciation Month, Teachers Association and Small Business. All are important and expressed his thanks to all of them.

Discussion and Action on Amending the Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Council Meeting – A request was received to amend the comments of Jeff Silbert under the Discussion & Action on Respondent to Omaha Development RFQ Process and Next Steps, the correct wording should be “Jeff Silbert stated he has no specific comment regarding location for housing, but does believe adequate housing for low-income person is needed”. Moved by Novachek to approve amending the minutes of the March 11, 2019 Council Meeting as discussed, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – Moved by McGrath to open floor, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. No comments. Moved by McGrath and second by Neimes to close the floor. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 19-003 to Vacate all Alleys in Blocks 18 and 23 of the DuPont Park Addition to the City of Washburn, James Bratley and Debra Barnhardt-Petitioners – McGrath moves to approve Resolution 19-003 to Vacate all Alleys in Blocks 18 and 23 of the DuPont Park Addition to the City of Washburn, second by Austin. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Plan Commission Recommendation to Approve a Conditional Use Permit for Manufacturing Use in Commercial Area C-3 Zoning District – Operate a Sewing Business in Accordance with the Regulations of 8-476 out of the Property Located at 324 West Bayfield St. – Amy Trimbo, Petitioner – No Discussion. Moved by McGrath to approve the Conditional Use Permit of Amy Trimbo for Manufacturing Use to Operate a Sewing Business at 324 W. Bayfield, St, second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Proposed Certified Survey Map – Gary Holman, Petitioner – Parcel # 04-291-2-49-04-32-3 00-208-17100 is located on W 12th St. between N. 5th Ave. W. and N. 8th Ave. W. He is requesting that the parcel be restored to two separate parcels as previously platted. Moved by McGrath to approve the certified survey map of Gary Holman, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation on Plans for Historic Civic Center, Action on Request for Support in Grant Writing for Facility – Coke Lindsey President of Historic Civic Center Foundation, Petitioner – Ms. Lindsey addressed the Council, she is the president of the new board. Their intentions are to re-open the facility as a Recreation and Community Center much as it was in the past. They have a lot of work to do, and are planning on do this in phases, they would like to open the first and second floor by the next Homecoming. They are asking for a letter of support to aid them in applying for grants. Moved by Novachek to give the Historic Civic Center Foundation a letter of support, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Request to Wisconsin DOT to Reconstruct STH 13 (Bayfield Street) in the City of Washburn from Thompson's Creek to Superior Avenue in 2024 – Kluver the next three agenda items are in some ways tied together as they all require substantial funding. This is a project that we need to start planning for now, we have had 6 major water breaks over the last three years, the water, sewer and stormwater all need to be replaced. This will be approximately a \$5 million-dollar project and if all the money was borrowed and was placed on the tax roll it would be approximately a 34% tax increase, this was figured using a 20 Year General Obligation Bond. We need to start figuring how we will pay for this, we will be retiring some debt in the near future, hopefully when can get some grant funding and we need to get some development to increase the tax base. Bob Anderson Dept. of Public Works Director and Joel Weber Treatment Plant Operator both expressed their concern that this project be done soon, the problems are not going to go away. Moved by Novachek to approve the letter drafted by Administrator Kluver requesting the project be done in 2024, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Capital Improvements to Wastewater Treatment Plant and Capital Improvements Plan – The next five years of capital improvements needed for the Water and Sewer Utilities were discussed at length. There are some items that can or have been budget for and some items that will require borrowing or help from other funds. Two items for 2019 that have not been budgeted for is the boiler system and VFD drives for the blowers, according to the energy audit of the Treatment Plant that was done these would produce significant energy savings. The cost would be around \$40,000.00 and could pay for itself in about 10 years. What is being requested tonight is to approve the plan keeping in mind its just a plan and is always subject to change. We also have other cost that are not planned for such as the water line break at the Marina, cost estimate for this repair will be around \$40,000.00. Kluver has directed all staff to hold any non-essential purchases until the Finance Committee can decide were to take the money from to pay for this, other projects may have to be axed. Joel Weber, stated the energy audit was done in January, if we can do some of the improvements suggest we will have a more efficient plant and save money in the long run. He is not opposed to the solar panels, but feels these projects should take priority. Motion by Broberg to approve the Capital Improvement Plan of the Washburn Water and Sewer Utility, second by McGrath. Neimes moves to open floor, second by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously. Felix Malinowski – recommend begin very cautious before putting money in to solar power, it has had great advancements over the years and continues to improve all the time, he also feels that Solar Panels will work well in Arizona, but may not work as well in Northern Wisconsin. Bill Bailey, stated they work just as well in Wisconsin as Arizona as we don't have the dust. He also disputes Kluver figures, as he doesn't believe they need a contingency on a project like this and if you did the 20 year without the contingency you would have cash flow in 5 years. Debra Barnhardt, said the council better be careful of what they decide, the citizens of Washburn are close to a property tax revolt, she also stated she has done project planning for years and agrees with Kluver you never do any project without a contingency that is poor planning. Motion by Novachek to close floor, second by McGrath. Motion carried unanimously. Original motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Design and Installation Project at the Wastewater Plant – Acceptance of Bids; Approval of Contract with Eagle Point Solar- Bid for this project came in at \$216,825.00, a grant was received to cover \$79,119.00, we must also add in \$21,000.00 for a contingency meaning we would need to borrow \$159,000.00. Two projections were done; a 15-year borrowing and 20-year borrowing. In both cases, the principle and interest payments would not be covered by the project energy savings. There is also some concern that if the VDF improvements are made to the Plant as discussed, the solar array proposed may end up being oversized, we may be able to reduce the size 25 to 50 percent if the other energy reductions improvements there are proposed are made. Because of these issues and the financial viability of the utility, Kluver can not recommend approving the Solar Project at this time. McGrath moves to reject bid, second by Neimes. Tulowitzky moves to open floor, second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously. Bill Bailey, reminds the Council that they received the maximum amount on the grant and by going in with the others it will be cheaper and if you don't do the contingency the turn around would be 5 years. Moved by Broberg to close floor, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued on the financial status of the Utility and the City and the number of expensive projects that are around the bend. Roll call vote on motion to reject bid; Yes Austin, Broberg, Novachek, McGrath Neimes. No Tulowitzky and Maziasz. Motion passes on 5 to 2.

Designation of Responsible Representative of the City for the Project and Resolution 19-004 Authorizing the borrowing of \$199,000 from the BCPL for the Project and Other Upgrades – Items were not discussed, since the Solar Panel Bid was rejected.

Discussion & Action on Placement of Dog Park at Lot 19 (Woodland Drive Property) – Maziasz moves to send back to the Park Committee for further consideration, second by Tulowitzky. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Painting Fish Sculpture at West End Park as a Rainbow Trout-Aimee Strzok, Petitioner- Moved by Tulowitzky to accept the donation of Aimee Strzok to paint the fish at West End Park as a Rainbow Trout, second by Novachek. Motion carried uniamoulsy.

Discussion & Action on Request to expand RV Camping at Thompson's West End Park – Short discussion. Moved by Broberg to send to Park Committee for further review, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Planning Process for Omaha Street Property Available for Development –City Administrator Kluver is asking the Council to give him direction on what they would like to do with this property. He also reminded the Council they may want to look at updating the Comprehensive Plan, if they don't want to focus on just the piece of land. Novachek thought that having 2 to 3 community forms to hear what the residents have in mind. First could be informational and the last two would be to look at viable plans/ideas the community may have. Maziasz opens moves to open floor, second by Neimes. Motion carried. Roth Edwards, 221 W. 6th St., visioning workshops don't work. He feels a very specific survey or a public hearing to look at the whole waterfront development would be best. Moved by Broberg to close floor, 2nd by McGrath Motion carried. After further discussion no action was taken, but Novachek, Mayor Avol and the Administrator will meet to come up with a plan to get the community involved.

Discussion & Action on Ordinance 19-004 Amending City Code on Enforcement to be Consistent with Statutory Changes. – Moved by Novachek to adopt Ordinance No. 19-004, second by Broberg. Motion carried.

Discussion & Action on Resolution 19-005 to Update Information for Wisconsin Public Employers Group Health Insurance Program – This resolution is required by the State as they consolidated all of the health insurance information into one manual, there were no changes made to the manual. Motion by Novachek to adopt Resolution # 19-005, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Alcohol Licensing Matters – Introduction of Annual Alcohol and Beer Garden License Renewal Application Moved by Novachek to have staff issue public notification and begin the administrative process, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Bartender License Renewal Applications #21-01 Through 21-12 and New Bartender License Applications - #20-56 Through #20-61 – A motion was made by McGrath to approve Bartender License Applications – #21-01 through 21-12 and #20-56 through 20-61, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Novachek, seconded by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Tammy L. DeMars
City Treasurer/Deputy Clerk

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30PM

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