

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
COMMON COUNCIL**

Council Chambers – Municipal Building
500 N. Chestnut Avenue -Oconto Falls, WI 54154

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015 – 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Brad Rice.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Brad Rice, Alderpersons: Mathew McDermid, Marty Coopman, Jay Kostreva, George Stuckey, Kevin Rusch, and Don Osborne

Also present: Administrator Vicki Roberts, City Attorney Larry Jeske, Police Chief Brad Olsen, Deputy Clerk Nancy Brye, Street Superintendent Terry Magnin, Fire Chief Tim Magnin

Others: Colleen Messenger-Oconto County Reporter, Joan Koehne-Times Herald, Kristan Rickling, and Kelvin Johnson

Approval of Minutes – Common Council meeting on July 14, 2015.

MOTION: Rusch/Kostreva

Motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on July 14, 2015.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report – June

MOTION: McDermid/Osborne

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for June and place on file.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Bills Payable – July

MOTION: McDermid/Rusch

Motion to approve the Bills Payable for July.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Reports:

Administrator Report – written report given.

Administrator verbally added:

- WisDOT will host a public informational meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, August 25 from 9:30-11:00 am regarding the upcoming construction project for Hwy 22 east of the city to US 141.
- Thank you to the Oconto Falls Utility for their assistance with the tree removal along Ridge Road and Indianwood Drive.
- The WPPI contract will be coming up for discussion next month. If anyone has any questions they would like answered, please contact Greg Kuhn or Lisa Christensen.
- Building Inspector Bobbie Krozell and I toured the new Bellin Clinic. Everything is coming along very nice and should be ready to open soon.

Police Report – written report given.

Police Chief verbally added:

- Part-time officer Cody Christensen has started his employment and is working this evening. I will introduce him at the end of the meeting.

Municipal Court Report – written report given.

Fire Department Report – written report given.

Street Department Report – written report given.

Street Superintendent verbally added:

- The County has started work on street projects. Barley will not be able to come until mid-September to start the curb & gutter on Indianwood and Ridge and the City Hall parking lot.

Building Inspector Report – written report given.

Utility Commission Report/Minutes – written report given.

MOTION: Rusch/Coopman

Motion to place reports on file.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL - All Citizens in-put will be limited to 3 minutes.

Joan Koehne gave an update on preliminary plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony upon completion of the Hwy 22 construction project. In addition to a ribbon cutting, there have been discussions regarding getting speakers, possibly having a walk on the new street, and serving refreshments.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

Old Business:

- A. Construction of additional 9 holes at River Island Golf Course; possibly select and/or strategically cut trees for an additional 9 holes.

Re: City Attorney

City Attorney drafted a memo to Council and City Officials stating we can cut out trees; enough for tee boxes, fairways and greens. Furthermore, the mature timber on the land should be cut to preserve the health of the forest. He indicated we would be within the restrictions of the deed in doing so. He suggested we do cutting on the parcels across the river from the golf course as well. Attorney Jeske would like a letter of understanding signed by the city and the power company before any selective logging is done on either side of the river so they understand what it is we are doing and where the money generated from the project is going to go.

Coopman asked if the city owned the parcels or leasing them from the power company.

City Attorney stated that the city does own the property, but it would be in good faith to keep the power company in the loop. Properties were deeded to the city in 1940. He suggested we have a professional forester assess the timber to back up our initial suggestions.

Rusch spoke to Chris at the DNR. He is willing to walk through the areas and give us an idea of what trees should be removed to maintain the good health of the remaining trees. Rusch felt that whether the golf course proceeds or not with another nine holes, it would still be in the best interest to thin the wooded parcels.

Kelvin Johnson agreed that the mature timber should come out. He would like to see the golf course fairway cut out at the same time the city is doing the thinning process so a second crew would not have to come in at a later date.

City Attorney suggested the Golf Course Club hold a special meeting to discuss these matters with the board and members.

Kelvin Johnson informed the golf club's annual meeting is held in the spring. He will talk to other board members to see what they have to say about a special meeting and handling this matter.

McDermid asked if the Council needs to act on anything.

Mayor indicated we should first get a forester in to see what needs to be done.

City Attorney said he would draft a letter of understanding to the power company.

It was agreed that no action was needed from Council at this time.

ITEM TABLED

New Business:

- A. Utility truck purchase.
Re: City Administrator

Administrator informed that she and Mayor Rice attended the last Utility Commission meeting in which the Commission approved the purchase of a 2016 Ford F-250 4x4 pickup with a plow from the lowest bidder, which was Peterson Ford. Utility Manager Greg Kuhn went through the process to obtain a replacement truck and needs Council approval to proceed with the purchase.

McDermid questioned why the Utility is getting a ¾ ton truck when a ½ ton truck is approximately \$10,000 cheaper. He also questioned why they needed two trucks with plows, as their current ½ ton truck already has a plow.

Mayor pointed out that a ½ ton truck is pretty useless when plowing the steep hills at the waste water treatment plant. Utility also discussed putting a salt spreader on the back end because it is difficult for city plow trucks to salt at the waste water treatment plant.

Administrator pointed out this was all reflected in the Utility Commission written report.

McDermid felt they could put a spreader on their current ½ ton truck.

MOTION: Kostreva/Coopman

Motion to approve the purchase of a 2016 Ford F-250 4x4 pickup truck and plow from Peterson Ford.

Roll Call Vote: Kostreva-yes, Coopman-yes, McDermid-no, Osborne-no, Rusch-no, and Stuckey-yes – **TIE VOTE**

*Mayor breaks a tie. Mayor Rice voted yes - **MOTION CARRIED***

- B. ATV/UTV usage on city streets.
Re: Police Chief

Chief Olsen informed citizens have been asking permission to drive their ATV/UTVs on city streets to get to the river for sport or fishing so they do not have to trailer them. He would like to set up a route for ATVs, similar to the snowmobile route and possibly issue permits to allow this.

Rusch questioned what does Gillett allow in their city?

Chief Olsen believes Gillett allows access on all city streets and the town also has some ATV routes. Chief would like to see the Town of Oconto Falls establish routes as well. They are very popular in Gillett and seem to run smoothly.

Kostreva commented he would like to see a route from Oconto Falls that connects with the routes in Gillett.

McDermid asked is Chief Olsen saw any reason not to allow ATV usage of city streets to get access the river and if we should possibly allow people access to the recycling center as well to haul brush.

Chief Olsen said these are good points to consider when making an ordinance. He also pointed out another consideration may be street usage for snow removal.

City Attorney will work with Chief Olsen on points to consider and bring it to the Ordinance Committee in the near future.

ITEM TABLED

- C. Original Class B Combination Alcohol/Beer License Application for Senn Falls Properties LLC, d/b/a One 5 Seven Bar & Grill – Agent: Jess Senn.
Re: Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk explained Cory DuFour has decided to break her lease with Doreen and Jess Senn and will no longer be running the bar at 157 N. Main Street. Jess Senn would like to start operation back up under his business, Senn Falls Properties LLC and keep the establishment name as One 5 Seven Bar & Grill. He has filed proper application with the City and Cory DuFour has surrendered the current license for this premises. Chief Olsen completed a background check on agent, Jess Senn and signed off on the application.

MOTION: McDermid/Rusch

Motion to approve the Class B Alcohol/Beer Combination License for Senn Falls Properties LLC d/b/a One 5 Seven Bar and Grill – Agent Jess Senn, for business located at 157 N. Main Street.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

- D. Operator's License Applications for:
S & S Hometown: Ashley E. Coopman
Happy Jacks: Anastasia M. Cameron
Re: Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk Ashley and Anastasia have completed a Beverage Server Class and have filed proper application with the City to renew their recently expired operator's license. Chief Olsen completed a background check and has signed off on both applications.

MOTION: Rusch/Coopman

Motion to approve Operator's License Applications for Ashley E. Coopman and Anastasia M. Cameron.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

- E. Adjournment.

Mayor Rice asked if there was any further business before the meeting is adjourned. Having no further business, Mayor Rice declared the meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

City Administrator Vicki A. Roberts