

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
COMMON COUNCIL
Council Chambers – Municipal Building
500 N. Chestnut Avenue -Oconto Falls, WI 54154

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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, Aldermen: 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, and Park & Rec Manager Sheila Manns

Others: Joan Koehne -Times Herald, Beth Julius, Gail Yatso, Lucy Lancman, Robert Risso, Charles & Jackie Rochon, B.J. Eisih, Chad Gilbertson, Cory & Debra Albers, Dean Hess, Joanne Drews, Tom Trudell, Mike Bouche, Debra Woods, and several students.

Approval of Minutes – Common Council meeting on October 13, 2015.

MOTION: Rusch/Osborne

Motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on October 13, 2015.

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

Treasurer's Report – September

MOTION: McDermid/Kostreva

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

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

Bills Payable – October

MOTION: McDermid/Kostreva

Motion to approve the Bills Payable for October.

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

Reports:

Administrator Report – written report given.

Administrator thanked all who attended the event on Saturday to celebrate the completion of Hwy 22. She also thanked Chamber of Commerce President, Gail Yatso and Emcee, Joan Koehne for all the work and planning they contributed to make this event happen.

Police Report – written report given.

Municipal Court Report – written report given.

Fire Department Report – written report given.

Street Department Report – written report given.

Street Superintendent informed that the pump at the old land fill is not working again. He has a call into Brabazon and they are coming out to look at it. There was discussion on problems we have been having with the two pumps continually having to be fixed and the time it takes Brabazon to repair them.

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.

Lucy Lanceman addressed concerns in her neighborhood and asked the Police Department to watch the area for possible drug activity.

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

New Business: (Item topics were discussed out of order from the agenda listing)

D. Memorial Field Options.

Re: Park & Rec Committee

Park & Rec Manager reiterated the proposal presented at meetings with the Finance Committee and the Park & Rec Committee. She is looking for approval from the Council to develop the Memorial Field property into baseball and hardball fields, skateboard park, playground area, and enlarge the parking lot. She is not asking for the City to fund the project, only permission to proceed with developing the property. Upon approval to proceed, she would then seek funding with the help from community organizations.

Kostreva explained the Park & Rec Committee unanimously recommended that Council give Park & Rec Manager Sheila Manns permission to look into making baseball improvements at Memorial Field Park.

Discussions from the Park & Rec Committee meeting were reiterated and the projects stages were explained. Suggestions from the Committee meeting were to start with stage 1; by adding one new hardball field where the old football field is now and continue playing on the current hardball field. The old track around the football field needs to be removed anyway because of its poor condition.

Rusch felt we should get the thoughts of the community to see if there is enough interest; possibly by holding a Public Hearing.

Approximately 20 citizens were present to support the proposed plans. One of the citizens commented that it was published in the Times Herald that this item would be up for discussion tonight. Another citizen advised that some community organizations have funds and are willing to donate to this project right now. They are not asking the City Council for any money. The City only has to sit back and watch the project grow.

The skate board park area was also discussed. It was agreed that when the time came to plan this area, those who would use the skate park should have input on the development.

Osborne agreed with the citizens. The City does not have plans or funding to develop Memorial Field Park. It is nice to see that the citizens and organizations are willing to fund and develop the area. He felt stages 1, 2, & 3 are great. However, he was undecided about stages 4 & 5 at this time and wondered if we should save some green space. He felt we should give the citizens and groups permission to at least start with the first stage.

Coopman was in agreement with Osborne. He commented that nobody else has come forward with any other ideas. As long as the carnival and Memorial Weekend Celebrations are able to continue at the park, he would like to see this project move forward. It would be a nice draw to the City during the summer with tournaments.

Dean Hess introduced himself as the new School Superintendent. He explained how the members of the community came together to develop, plan, and fund the new athletic field at the high school. The community has a lot of pride and support. Memorial Field is another beautiful opportunity for the community. They are only asking to move forward with stage 1 at this time. The City would still have the opportunity to change remaining stages in the event someone comes forward with other suggestions. It is indeed rare and nice to see this much community engagement.

Kostreva recapped that the City has no money at this time to put into Memorial Field development. There are people willing to proceed with plans, development, and funding to improve City property. He felt we would be foolish not to allow them to proceed.

MOTION: Coopman/Kostreva

Motion to approve the Park & Rec Committee to work together with Panther Pride to complete stages 1, 2, and 3.

AMENDED MOTION: Coopman/Kostreva

Motion to approve the Park & Rec Committee to work together with Park & Rec Manager Sheila Manns who will seek funding to start and complete Stage 1 as presented to develop Memorial Field Park. Upon completion of Stage 1, they are to come back to Council and present plans for approval before starting Stage 2.

Roll Call Vote: Coopman-yes, Kostreva-yes, Rusch-yes, McDermid-yes, Osborne-yes, Stuckey-yes - **MOTION CARRIED**

- A. Oconto Falls Area Heritage Center property on Green Bay Avenue.
Re: City Attorney

Recap from the October Council meeting: Dale Seeling addressed the Council on behalf of the Oconto Falls Area Heritage Center regarding the old Jefferson School site on Green Bay Avenue, which is currently owned by the center. He asked the city to consider adding the Heritage Center's property to the city's liability insurance. Seeling also pointed out fence issues at the site. The city's playground area is inside the fenced in area and the fence opening is on the Heritage Center's property. Therefore, anyone trying to access the city's park would have to go onto the Heritage Center's property to get to the playground.

Dale Seeling was not present at tonight's meeting.

City Attorney explained that nothing really needs to be done. The Oconto Falls Area Heritage Center property is no different than any other vacant property in the City. Other vacant properties are not covered under the City's insurance policy.

Rusch commented the Street Department will fix the fence entrances to make the city park accessible so citizens do not have to enter onto the Heritage Center's property to get into the park.

NO ACTION TAKEN

- B. Music by the River – 2016 Sunset Concert Series at the East Side Beach.
Re: Chamber of Commerce President, Gail Yatso

Gail Yatso explained the Chamber of Commerce would like to host live bands at the East Side Beach and provide food and beverages during these events. The 'Music by the River' sunset concert series would take place on Friday evenings; June 24, July 22, and August 26, 2016 from 6 pm until 9 pm.

MOTION: Rusch/McDermid

Motion to allow Oconto Falls Chamber of Commerce the use of the East Side Beach to host band events on June 24, July 22, and August 26, 2016; subject to obtaining permits needed.

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

- C. Ordinance 15-004: An ordinance amending parking restrictions on N. Farm Road and E. Highland Drive.
Re: Ordinance Committee

Coopman informed the Ordinance Committee met earlier and unanimously recommends the approval of proposed parking restrictions on the East side of N. Farm Road (from S. Main Street to Columbia Street) and on the North and South sides of E. Highland Drive (from N. Main Street to Chestnut Avenue).

MOTION: McDermid/Kostreva

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee to approve Ordinance 15-004: An ordinance amending parking restrictions on N. Farm Road and E. Highland Drive.

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 8:00 PM.

City Administrator Vicki A. Roberts