

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 – 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, and Don Osborne

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

Others: Beth Julius, Judy Kostreva, Keith Schneider, Gail Yatso, Ann Senn, Ryan Raatz-R&R Assessing, and Anna Olson-Times Herald

Approval of Minutes – Common Council meeting on August 16, 2016.

MOTION: Kostreva/McDermid

Motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council meeting on August 16, 2016.

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

Treasurer's Report – July

MOTION: McDermid/Osborne

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

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

Bills Payable – August

MOTION: McDermid/Coopman

Motion to approve the Bills Payable for August.

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

Reports:

Administrator Report – written report given.

Administrator reminded Finance Committee will start meeting next Tuesday to discuss the 2017 budget.

Police Report – written report given.

Municipal Court Report – written report given.

Fire Department Report – no report given (will double up next month).

Fire Chief has had an extremely busy month with the Caldwell House fire investigation. Suspicion has been ruled out and it was concluded that it would be too costly to find the exact cause of the fire; therefore the final cause was declared undetermined. The owners have a couple ideas in mind but as of now they are waiting for the insurance settlement before making any permanent decisions.

Stuckey congratulated Fire Chief Magnin and his department on how well the fire was handled. With the water tower being down for maintenance, water had to be taken from the river. Everything was handled in a very organized fashion.

Fire Chief informed approximately 600,000 gallons of water were used to distinguish the fire. He also commented on how well the MABIS system worked and appreciated the help from neighboring fire departments.

Street Department Report – written report given.

Building Inspector Report – written report given.

Utility Commission Report/Minutes – written report given.

MOTION: McDermid/Kostreva

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.

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

Old Business: Nothing to address

New Business:

- A. Appointment to fill alderperson vacancy in Aldermanic District 2 to complete current term ending April 18, 2017.
Re: Mayor Rice

Mayor reminded Kevin Rusch turned in his resignation as alderperson last month. The city posted notices advertising the vacancy, asking any interested party to submit a letter of interest. We received one letter of interest from Keith Schneider. Mayor asked if there were any nominations to for an appointment to fill the alderperson vacancy.

MOTION: Kostreva

Motion to appoint Keith Schneider to fill the alderperson vacancy in Aldermanic District 2 to complete current term ending April 18, 2017.

Mayor asked if there any other nominations. Having none, he asked if there was a second on Kostreva's motion.

SECOND: Stuckey

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

Administer Oath of Office to newly appointed alderperson.

Deputy Clerk administered an Oath of Office to newly appointed alderperson, Keith Schneider.

B. Changes to current Mayoral Committee Appointments.

Re: Mayor Rice

Changes to committee appointments due to the alderperson change: Alderman George Stuckey will replace past Alderman Rusch on the Finance, Ordinance, and Personnel Committees. Kevin Rusch will replace Keith Schneider as the citizen appointment on the Finance Committee.

City Attorney advised no motion needs to be made on this item.

C. Assessment proposal for a 3 year Assessment Maintenance Contract with R & R Assessing Services.

Re: Ryan Raatz – R & R Assessing

Ryan Raatz explained the three year contract being proposed and stated the level of assessment is holding well.

Kostreva noted he was impressed with how well Ryan Raatz handled an objector at the last Board of Review meeting.

MOTION: Kostreva/McDermid

Motion to approve the 3 year Assessment Maintenance Contract with R & R Assessing Services as presented.

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

D. Oconto Falls Trail System.

Re: Ann Senn/Gail Yatso

Ann Senn and Gail Yatso are on Oconto Falls Trail System Committee whose mission is to establish, maintain, and promote health and safe biking trails throughout the Oconto Falls area. Senn explained their immediate and long range plans to have connecting sidewalks installed throughout the city. The main areas of concern are along Columbia Street and portions of S. Main Street. There are sidewalks in front of the schools along Farm Road, but they come to a dead end and do not connect to anything. The committee is in the process of raising funds for a sidewalk along County I to join with Columbia and Main. Senn felt completing these sidewalks would make a safer route for school children as well as those just going for a walk. She would like the city to consider the completion of sidewalks on Columbia and Main in the next budget session. She suggested the city possibly look into available grants, such as the Safe Walk to School Grant.

Mayor commented the city has worked with past School Superintendent, Dave Polashek on a grant but was not able to get it. Mayor also informed it is very costly for the city to put in sidewalks.

Gail Yatso commented grants don't happen until they see you actually doing something. The committee is looking for the city's support. She suggested moving forward and then look for grant money.

McDermid could see their vision and point of view, however the budget is tight. It would be nice to see grant money for this project. It is hard enough to find funds in the city's budget to work on streets let alone sidewalks.

Mayor agreed a grant would be good, as the city cannot afford to put in sidewalks at this time. Current sidewalk funds are allocated for maintenance and repair.

Schneider asked if they had a grant writer.

Ann Senn commented Debbie Konitzer works with public health needs for the county. She is experienced with grant writing and may be a resource to help us. Senn wanted to know what can be done to get this done rather than why it cannot be done.

Coopman agreed a grant would be the key to getting this accomplished.

Street Superintendent reiterated Yatso's comments that we will not receive a grant until the city supports it.

Coopman replied it depends on the percentage of support that is needed from the city.

Administrator informed the next step would be to take it to the Finance Committee. She suggested getting a cost estimate and check with utility to see if anything would have to be done on their part.

Street Superintendent stated he has previously estimated prices for these areas.

Kostreva asked if the cost burden for sidewalks would be all on the city.

Mayor replied some would be on the homeowners as well.

Administrator informed everyone appreciates the need, it is just finding the funds that will be difficult.

Ann Senn stated that if it came to a choice between Columbia Street and Main Street, she would like to see Main Street done first.

Mc Dermid asked if they could bring grant requirements to the Finance Committee when it meets to discuss sidewalks.

ITEM SENT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

- E. 2017 Summer Sunset Music on the River – Concert Series at the East Side Beach.
Re: Gail Yatso - Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Gail Yatso thanked the City, Street Department, Utility Department, and Police Department for their help and support on the concerts held this year at the East Side Beach.

Mayor in turn thanked Yatso and the Chamber for hosting these concerts which were enjoyed by so many in the community.

Gail Yatso explained the success and comments received from the community with the 2016 concert series. Everyone wants to see it again next year! Since everyone liked this year's lineup, we would like to ask the same groups to perform next year as well. She explained how eventually they would like to use some concert proceeds to purchase a stage rather than renting one and also add power to the south for the stage so they can utilize more of the green space. Yatso is seeking approval from the city to proceed with scheduling of the 2017 concert series to include dates of June 23, July 28, and August 25, 2017; these being the 4th Friday of the month.

Kostreva asked if there were any parking issues.

Gail Yatso informed nearby businesses offered their property for parking; Riverview BP allowed parking on their grassy field next to the station, Riverview Alliance Church and Peterson Ford also allowed concert goers to utilize their parking lots, and some parked alongside streets. Parking did not seem to be an issue at all.

MOTION: Kostreva/McDermid

Motion to allow the Chamber of Commerce to proceed with scheduling concerts at the East Side Beach for the 2017 series; June 23, July 28, and August 25, 2017.

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

F. Award contract for logging project.

Re: City Attorney

City Attorney informed an invitation for sealed bids was posted and mailed to five local loggers to obtain bids for a logging project on approximately 69 acres of timber land near the golf course and off of Maple Street. The City received bids from two interested loggers; Wild River Forestry Inc and David Slempek. City Attorney presented comparisons on these two bids after he and the Street Superintendent did financial calculations to estimate what income could potentially be. Wild River Forestry bid was approximately \$37,410 and David Slempek bid was approximately 29,635. City Attorney advised the project would not begin until the winter of year end 2017.

Schneider questioned clean up after timber is removed.

City Attorney explained when the logger is finished; it does look bad at first. After about 1 year new growth is coming in and the smaller trees start to grow. It will start looking better after the first year. The contract we have in place is specific and the logger has to follow strict guidelines for fire and erosion control.

MOTION: McDermid/Kostreva

Motion to award the logging project contract to Wild River Forestry Inc. with approximate revenue being \$37,410.

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

- G. Cook Memorial Library lease agreement with Oconto Falls School District.
Re: City Administrator

City Administrator advised she and Mayor Rice met with School Superintendent Dean Hess to go over the proposed lease agreement for the Cook Memorial Library site. The School Board met last night and approved the proposed lease agreement. The only changes made from the last contract are wording in the verbiage to allow another entity in the building and to change the term of the lease to 5 years.

MOTION: McDermid/Coopman

Motion to approve the Cook Memorial Library lease agreement with Oconto Falls School District as presented.

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

- H. Operator License Applications for Susan C. Albert – Krist Oil and Stephanie M. Wirhanowicz – fundraiser events.
Re: Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk informed applicants have completed the Beverage Server Class and filed proper application with the City to obtain a license. Chief Olsen completed a background check and signed off on the applications.

MOTION: McDermid/Coopman

Motion to approve the Operator's License Applications for Susan C. Albert and Stephanie M. Wirhanowicz.

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

- I. Election Inspector appointment for Lawrence Kindel to follow current term ending December 31, 2017.
Re: Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk informed Sandi VanHaren has resigned from her position as poll worker. Lawrence Kindel has shown interest in becoming a poll worker and has agreed to complete training prior to the Presidential Election, so he would then be able to work this election.

MOTION: McDermid/Osborne

Motion to approve the election inspector appointment for Lawrence Kindel to follow current term ending December 31, 2017.

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

- J. Temporary Class B License for Kevin Lee Nischke Memorial Fund Club to sell malt beverages at their annual flag football/volley ball fundraiser event at Memorial Field Park on Saturday, October 1, 2016.
Re: Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk explained this is an annual fundraiser event. The club has filed proper application with the city to obtain a temporary license to sell malt beverages at the event.

MOTION: McDermid/Stuckey

Motion to approve the Temporary Class B License Application for Kevin Lee Nischke Memorial Fund Club to sell malt beverages at their annual flag football/volley ball fundraiser event at Memorial Field Park on Saturday, October 1, 2016.

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

K. Adjournment.

Mayor Rice asked if there was any further business before the meeting is adjourned. Having no further business, he declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Mayor Brad Rice