

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017 – 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: Marty Coopman, Jay Kostreva, Devin Wirtz, Kevin Rusch, Mathew McDermid, and George Stuckey

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 Utility Manager Greg Kuhn

Others: Christos Anastasopoulos, Beth Julius, Taryn Nall, Laurie Cahoon-Draus, Warren Bluhm-Times Herald, Brenda Alberts, Debra Munes DDS, Debra Konitzer, and Mary Rosner

Approval of Minutes – Common Council Meeting on July 11, 2017.

MOTION: McDermid/Rusch

Motion to approve the minutes from the Common Council Meeting on July 11, 2017.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer's Report – June

MOTION: McDermid/Coopman

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

Voice Vote: All voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

Bills Payable – July

MOTION: Rusch/Wirtz

Motion to approve the Bills Payable for July.

Voice Vote: All voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

Reports:

Administrator Report –written report given

Police Report – written report submitted

Municipal Court Report – written report submitted

Fire Department Report – written report submitted

Fire Chief informed there was a structure fire on Saturday. The department has a shortage on manpower and in need of more firefighters. On Saturday, only 5 firefighters were on the scene for the first 20 minutes. More arrived later.

Street Department Report – written report submitted

Building Inspector Report – written report submitted

Wirtz asked if the sand issues at the old Caldwell House site are being resolved.

Administrator informed the building inspector has been working with the owner and street department. We should see results soon.

Utility Commission Report/Minutes – written report submitted.

MOTION: Rusch/McDermid

Motion to place reports on file.

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

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

Possible discontinuation of adding fluoride to the city water system is up for discussion later in the meeting. Several people expressed their concerns and gave their opinions on reasons to continue the process.

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

Old Business:

A. Property conditions at 257 S. Washington Street.

Administrator informed construction is moving forward. Property owners did submit their deposit to the contractor as requested the day after the last council meeting. There are visual signs of work being started; contractor sign in yard and stacks of shingles on the roof.

Laurie Cahoon-Draus stated the contractor is starting to roof tomorrow and plans to start putting on the new siding on August 21, 2017.

B. Property located at 409 Cherry Street.

Re: City Attorney

City Attorney informed the owner, Doug Larson, is ready and willing to give the city a Quit Claim Deed for property located at 409 Cherry Street. There is a manageable amount of asbestos in the building and would only cost approximately \$2,000 to clean this up. We may want to think about the possibility that we may be inheriting a possible ground pollution problem. The cost to do professional testing of possible ground pollution would exceed \$10,000. Professional consultants say that nearby ground pollution would probably flow toward the river and away from the subject property. City Attorney is looking for direction on what to do next and suggested three options that could possibly be done at this point:

1. Accept a deed and tear down the house.
2. Finish the raze order proceedings, tear down the house, add the cost of the raze order to the tax bill, and have title go to the County.
3. Spend \$10,000 to check possible ground pollution before taking title.

Rusch felt we should retain the property and not let it go through to the County. If we did not disturb the ground and use it for parking; we can decide at a later date whether or not we want to pursue checking into ground contamination.

MOTION: Rusch/McDermid

Motion to accept a Quit Claim Deed from owner Doug Larson for property located at 409 Cherry Street.

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

- C. Property located at 306 Jackson Street.
Re: City Attorney

City Attorney explained this property is the house which was deemed inhabitable back in 2015 due to a problem with cat urine and feces over much of the house, as well as a mold problem in the basement and attic. Some cleaning was done by the owner but the home is still in poor condition to this day. The City Administrator, Building Inspector, Attorney, and Oconto County Public Health Official visited the site today with the home owner's representative present. It was felt the home is still not fit for habitation but could possibly be fixed. City Attorney plans to have an expert on environmental issues also take a look at the home. A final hearing is set for September 5, 2017 at 1:00 pm before Judge Conley at the Oconto County Circuit Court. The questions for the Judge to determine are, "Is the building unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise unfit for human habitation? And if it can be corrected, what would be a reasonable time to make corrections?" It was advised that if the home owner is allowed time to fix the property; strict guidelines be set so the owner is aware exactly what is expected.

Administrator added nothing has been done to the home since last year when the family friend helped with cleaning. Letters were sent to the home owner two years ago stating the home had to be professionally cleaned by a professional cleaning service. As of yet, this has not been done.

New Business:

- A. Authorization to remove fluoride from the city water system.
Re: Utility Manager

Utility Manager presented material backing his reasons to discontinue the procedure of adding fluoride to the city water system. With these reasons in mind, the Utility Commission has discussed and approves the recommendation be made to Council to discontinue adding fluoride to the city water system.

There was a lengthy discussion from Debra Munes, Debra Konitzer, Mary Rosner, and Brenda Alberts who strongly recommend keeping this practice in place; especially for the benefit of lower income families who cannot afford dental care.

Stuckey pointed out the extended community benefit to students who would be getting fluoride in the drinking water while at school.

It was questioned whether this is a public health issue or a personal choice. One pointed out that his personal choice is not to drink water with added fluoride; therefore he has a system hooked up to his home water source to remove it. There was discussion on how much the youth really benefits from the city's water system since now days many drink bottled water, energy drinks, and soda. Others commented the solution to tooth decay is proper personal hygiene, regular dental visits, and basic teeth brushings and should not rely on the city to add fluoride to the drinking water.

Utility Manager informed we are the only city in Oconto County that adds fluoride to their water system. .7 is the standard level recommendation. The City of Oconto has natural fluoride in their water and they do not have to sample or test fluoride levels. The City of Gillett discontinued adding fluoride three years ago. Our natural level ranges between .2 and .4, so we have only had to add a minimal amount to reach the standard level of .7. Since we do add some, we are required to do daily testing.

MOTION: Rusch/Coopman

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Utility Commission to discontinue adding fluoride the city water system.

Roll Call Vote: Rusch-yes, Coopman-yes, McDermid-yes, Wirtz-yes, Kostreva-no, Stuckey-no - **MOTION CARRIED**

- B. Operator's License Application for Breanna J. Mikula & Sarah A. Behnke – Mobil 22, Katherine V. Morlan – J's Smokeshack, and Elizabeth M. Boivin – Krist Oil.
Re: Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk informed the applicants have all 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 all applications.

MOTION: Rusch/Wirtz

Motion to approve the Operator's License Applications for Breanna J. Mikula, Sarah A. Behnke, Katherine V. Morlan, and Elizabeth M. Boivin as presented.

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

- C. 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 8:00 pm.

City Administrator Vicki A. Roberts