

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019 – 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: Devin Wirtz, Jeff McDonald, Marty Coopman, Kevin Rusch, Mathew McDermid, and Tim Holman

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

**Others:** Emil & Eva Groth, Christos Anastasopoulos, Jon Spice, Alan Christopherson, and Samantha Doney

**Approval of Minutes** – Common Council Meeting on October 8, 2019 and Special Common Council Meeting on October 30, 2019.

**MOTION: Rusch / McDonald**

*Motion to approve the Common Council Meeting minutes as presented for the Common Council Meeting on October 8, 2019 and Special Common Council Meeting on October 30, 2019.*

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

**Treasurer's Report** – September

**MOTION: McDermid / Holman**

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

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

**Bills Payable** – October

It was questioned if the payment for Fischer Concrete was the final payment on the Main Street sidewalk project. It was also thought that the city may have been over billed for concrete. City Administrator will follow up to make sure the billing and payment are correct.

**MOTION: McDermid / Rusch**

*Motion to approve the Bills Payable as presented for October.*

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

**Reports: written reports submitted for review**

**Administrator Report**

Verbally added – Building Inspector Jane Meissner had a conflict and was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. She will try to come to the December or January meeting to meet the Council.

**Police Report**

**Municipal Court Report**

**Fire Department Report – no written report**

**Street Department Report**

Verbally added – GAD informed that they plan to pick-up curbside recyclables and garbage all in one (1) day next year. They have put the City on their schedule for Wednesday pick-ups.

**Building Inspector Report**

**Utility Commission Report/Minutes**

**MOTION: Rusch / Holman**

*Motion to place reports on file.*

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

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING**

Correspondence/Information:

- Emil “Babe” Groth retirement and recognition for years of service at the Oconto Falls Recycling Center.

The Mayor and City Administrator thanked Babe for his years of service to the City and presented him with a retirement plaque and gift card. Babe has worked at the recycling center from February 12, 1997 through November 3, 2000 and then returned on July 13, 2006 until his retirement this past month.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

Jon Spice presented the Council with an updated picture of the Youth Football Program team members. He thanked the city departments for their help in making this program run smoothly. There were 83 youth in the program this year. The group photo will be displayed at City Hall.

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

**Old Business:** Nothing to address

**New Business:**

A. Annual Fire Department equipment testing.

Fire Chief Magnin explained they were unable to perform testing on trucks this year for various reasons. The department has been doing their own testing for the past 15 years, however was unable to fit it in this year. There have never been issues in the past but Magnin was concerned if testing is not done and a pump fails; we may be liable. He is asking for the Council's guidance as to whether or not the department should skip testing this year or contract with a firm to perform the required testing on the ladder truck and two (2) engines. Magnin indicated the cost to have a firm come to perform in house testing would be approximately \$1,400.

**MOTION: Wirtz / McDonald**

*Motion to approve the spending of approximately \$1,400 to get the three (3) Fire Department trucks tested before the end of this year.*

**Roll Call Vote:** Wirtz-yes, McDonald-yes, McDermid-yes, Coopman-yes, Holman-yes, Rusch-yes - **MOTION CARRIED**

B. Resolution 19-009; 2020 Utility Commission Budget Resolution.

Utility Manager Kuhn briefed the Council on the Utility Commission Budget. There are two main projects for the Electric Utility in 2020 and one large purchase. The first project is to replace overhead lines along W. Highland Drive with underground facilities. For the second project, funds are being allocated for an overhead rebuild which is yet to be decided. The large purchase is for a new smaller bucket to replace the 2001 Ford bucket. The major project for the Water Utility will be the rehab of well number 3. Kuhn went on to explain wage increases of 3% for the manager, 2.5% for the linemen, 3% for the customer service representatives, and 2% for the waste water operator. The final adjustment is for the lead customer service representative to get the remainder of the wage increase that was promised in 2019 to bring her to the old "Admin 4" wage. All wage increases are reflected in the 2020 budget.

There was some discussion with the wage increases and it was brought up that Wis. State Stat. 66.05 indicates that a Utility Commission does not have to bring wages to the Common Council for approval.

**MOTION: Coopman / Holman**

*Motion to approve Resolution 19-009; 2020 Utility Commission Budget Resolution as presented.*

**Voice Vote:** All present voting aye with the exception of Rusch voting no

**MOTION CARRIED**

C. Temporary Class B License Application for St. Anthony's Parish to sell malt beverages at their annual Ice Fishing Derby on February 8, 2020 at the East Side Beach and permission to utilize the beach house for the event.



**MOTION: Rusch / Wirtz**

*Motion to go into closed session at 7:32 pm to confer with legal counsel concerning strategy in future litigation pursuant to 19.85(1)(g) Wis. Stats.*

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

- G. Council will return to open session and may take action on matters discussed in closed session.

**MOTION: McDermid / Wirtz**

*Motion to return to open session at 7:47 pm at which time Council may take action on matters discussed in closed session.*

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

Action taken...

**MOTION: McDermid / Rusch**

*Motion to have the City Administrator and City Attorney work with GEI Consultants to develop a site investigation work plan to address possible contamination near 265 N. Main Street.*

**Roll Call Vote:** McDermid-yes, Rusch-yes, Wirtz-yes, McDonald-yes, Coopman-yes, Holman-yes - **MOTION CARRIED**

- H. 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 7:53 pm.

---

City Administrator Vicki A. Roberts