

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
PUBLIC HEARING**
Regarding the proposed 2022 Budget

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 – 6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Public Hearing called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Rice.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Brad Rice, Aldermen: Devin Wirtz, Jeff McDonald, Marty Coopman, Mathew McDermid, and Tim Holman

Also present: City Administrator Vicki Roberts, City Attorney Larry Jeske, Deputy Treasurer Eve Wallace, Fire Chief Tim Magnin and Utility Manager Greg Kuhn

Excused: Alderman Ashley Bahrke

Others: Morgan Malecki, Kevin Rusch and Craig Schuh

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:
2022 Proposed Budget for the City of Oconto Falls.**

Notice was hereby given that on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Oconto Falls Municipal Building, 500 North Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, a Public Hearing will be held on the proposed 2022 budget. Following the Public Hearing, the Council will meet to vote on the proposed budget during a special Council meeting at approximately 6:15 pm. The proposed budget was made available for inspection on the City Website at www.cityofocontofalls.com, at City Hall, the Oconto Falls Public Library, the Oconto Falls Post Office, and Iverson's Piggly Wiggly. The Public Hearing Notice was published in the Oconto County Times Herald on November 5, 2021.

Mayor opened the floor to any questions or comments from the audience.

- Rusch asked Mayor Rice how he felt about the budget. The Mayor said he would have rather seen more fund balance used instead of having an almost 5% city tax increase.
- Coopman commented he feels the committee did a good job on the 2022 budget even with a city tax increase of 4.96%. Over the years the city has expanded city services to include:
 - Adding a full-time Detective/SRO officer
 - Adding staff and updated equipment in the Street Department
 - Added a full-time Fire Chief

- We now have full-time critical care for the Ambulance Service
- McDermid agrees that the city tax rate increase is acceptable considering the restraints the city is under with the tax levy. Both Holman and McDonald agreed also.
- Wallace reported that even though the city tax rate is going up 4.96%. This year we are seeing an increase in the school tax and lottery credits. Because of that a home assessed at \$100,000 they will see a net tax decrease of \$27.01. Each \$100,000 in value increase after that you can add \$61.75.
- McDermid asked if we received an answer on if we could use ARPA funds to pay for the Memorial Field playground. Vicki reported she has not received a direct answer but she does not believe we will be able to use ARPA funds for that. She expects to use the ARPA funds entirely on Columbia Street.

Adjournment

Having no further questions or comments, Mayor Rice declared the Public Hearing closed and adjourned at 6:15 pm.



City Administrator Vicki A. Roberts

*A quorum of the Common Council was in attendance of this Public Hearing