

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS

COMMON COUNCIL

Council Chambers – Municipal Building

500 N. Chestnut Avenue - Oconto Falls, WI 54154

TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2023 – 7:00pm

Immediately following the 6:30 PM Public Hearing – at approximately 7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Brad Rice

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Administrator Peter Wills, Deputy Clerk Jenny Friedman, Utility Manager Greg Kuhn, Bart Schindel, Beth Rank, Jim Kardoskee, Carrie Hill, William Zeitlow, Trinity Rasmussen, Bob Maloney, Mike Krause, Gabriele LaCount, Tanya Peterson, Jason Flynn, Dani Sonesen, Bob Telford, Bruce Jeske, Dean Hess

4. Approval of Minutes – Common Council-02-14-2023

MOTION: McDermid/McDonald

Motion to approve minutes with the amendments recommended for Common Council -02-14-2023.

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

5. Treasurer's Report

MOTION: Wirtz/Holman

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report and place on file

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

6. Bills Payable – February

MOTION: Holman/Coopman

Motion to approve the Bills Payable as presented for February.

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

7. **Reports: written reports submitted**

- ✓ Administrator Report
- ✓ Police Department Report
- ✓ Municipal Court Report

- ✓ Fire Department Report
Saturday March 18, 2023 the annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser is back.
- ✓ Street Department Report
- ✓ Building Inspector Report
- ✓ Utility Commission Report/Minutes
- ✓ Library Report
It is Youth Art month. Feel free to stop in at the library and look at the youth projects displayed.

MOTION: Wirtz/Holman

Motion to place the reports on file as presented.

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

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

Citizen addressed the council about having chickens in the city and the benefits that having chickens bring.

Bob Maloney is speaking on behalf of American Legion Post 302. American Legion is proposing to have a plaque in memory of Terry Umentum. The plaque would be placed at the baseball field on the concession stand above the window. This plaque and future plaques would be something that would be over seen by the American Legion Post 302 if approved.

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

Old Business:

- 9. Oconto Falls School District Petition for Direct Annexation, City Ordinance 23-001
Direct Annexation of Oconto Falls School District Property to the City of Oconto Falls.

MOTION: Bahrke/Coopman

Motion to accept the Oconto Falls School District Petition for Direct Annexation. City Ordinance 23-001 Direct Annexation of Oconto Falls School District Property to the City of Oconto Falls.

Row Call Vote: Bahrke-yes, Coopman-yes, Wirtz-yes, McDermid-yes, McDonald-yes, Holman-yes, **Motion Carried**

- 10. WIDOA Fire Station Project update

The Fire Department received a check for three and a half million dollars to help pay for the supplies and other expenses that come up with the start of the Fires Station. The boring samples were taken from site and awaiting the results. Administrator Wills and Fire Chief Magnin request was for architect and construction manager to have the preliminary design and cost ready for the April council. On Thursday the Fire Department will be doing training on the old garage. After training the Street Department and the Fire Department will work together to get these old buildings taken down so there is no need to pay a contractor to take them down.

New Business:

11. Breakfast on the farm rental of picnic tables

The Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm Committee was inquiring if the picnic table fee could be waived for their usage of the tables. The reasoning is that the committee will be doing all the work to get the tables to and from their event. The City of Oconto Falls staff will have to do no work with the use of the tables.

Motion: Wirtz/Holman

Motion to waive the picnic table rental fees for the Breakfast on the Farm Committee.

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

12. Utilities New Substation Proposal

Utility Manager Greg Kuhn brought forth new substation proposal. The issues with current substations and system are;

- Lemirande Substation is at end of life and supplies fifty five percent of current load
- Jackson Street approaching end of life and supplies forty five percent of current load
- Current system has limited load capacity currently 15-20MW across 2 substation, system peak load 5.7MW, system is 34,500v-2,400/4,160v, reliability and efficiency issues
- Equipment availability to get replacement parts and reliability
- Substations Maintenance

There are two viable options for these current issues. The first option is to build new substation on a 10 acre parcel on County Highway I. The new substation would have connection to 138KV transmission with Voltage 7200/12470V. Equipped with two transformers to provide full redundancy and up dated Capacity to 20-28MW with ATC being new power provider. The total estimated investment is seven point three million with a total estimated yearly savings of seventy six thousand dollars in yearly savings. Options for paying for the new substation are utilities holds over three million in retained earnings. A portion of this would be used and then financing estimated three million five hundred thousand in bonding needed. With the estimated payment of three hundred fifteen thousand dollars this will need a rate case to support payment. Right now Forester Electrical Engineering submitted CA application. Approved Feb 6 2023. The design phase is taking place now and Bid request for equipment as soon as April/May. The Bid results could be in as soon as June/July.

If bids are accepted earnest money will need to be sent for equipment. Approximately twenty percent of cost with substation commissioning fall of 2025 spring of 2026. There would be some challenges with the new substation.

- Stress to dated underground facilities
- Increased need for tree trimming
- Increased workload for several years
- Additional upfront cost and financing needed

The second option would be to rebuild the current system and stations. This would take updating the controls and relays, increase system capacity, upgrade wire sizing to extremities of the system will be required, replace existing structures and transformers. The councils concern was that they would like to see estimates on how much the cost would be to rebuild the existing stations. That way both options are fully looked into for the best outcome for the citizens and utilities. Utility Manager Kuhn estimated four point eight million dollars not including the cost of new wire that would be needed. It was asked if Utility Manager Kuhn could present more detail in April on what the cost would be to rebuild the existing substations.

NO ACTION TAKEN

13. City Hall Computer Technology
 - A. Managed Information Technology Provider
 - B. Computer Technology Needs

Administrator Wills has been looking into the cost of updating the computer technology in city hall. Currently the Firewall is ok but City Hall is need of a new server and a better backup system, virus system and IT support. Administrator Wills and Treasure Eve Wallace met with seven different technology providers. There estimated cost for computer technology started at sixteen thousand to sixty thousand dollars. Council asked if just the server was replaced now to get to the up to date status it needs to be at then in a couple years is the city going to have to upgrade again and with updated server will it support any new technology that is added to it. If server was updated now it should last about ten years and be able to support new technology added.

NO ACTION TAKEN

14. Application for Temporary Class B/Class B Retailer's License St. Anthony's
This is for the annual food truck event on May 1, 2023 and the annual auction held on April 22, 2023.

MOTION: Wirtz/Holman

Motion to approve Temporary Class B/Class B Retailer's License for St. Anthony's Catholic School

Voice Vote: All present voting aye- **Motion Carried**

15. Two Year Operators License Applications, Gracy Smily

Motion: Holman/McDermid

Motion to approve the two year operator's license for Gracy Smily

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

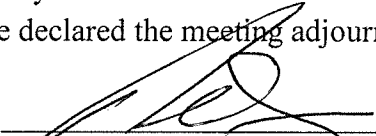
16. The Committee may go into closed session to discuss matters of employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of public employees pursuant to 19.85 (1c) Wis. Stats. (Re: Employment update)
Re: Police Chief Brad Olsen

C. The Committee will return to open session and may take action on matters discussed in closed session.

NO DISCUSSION

17. Adjournment

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



City Administrator Peter Wills