

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS**  
**COMMON COUNCIL**  
Council Chambers – Municipal Building  
500 N. Chestnut Avenue - Oconto Falls, WI 54154  
**TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2023 – 7:00pm**

**MINUTES**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 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, Jim Kardoskee, Carrie Hill, Trinity Rasmussen, Mike Krause, Brain Sauerhage, Michel Toboyek, Mikayla Toboyek, Ann Senn, Joel Schmecht, Christine Grzelak, Debbie Arndt, Debbie Konitzer, Mary Kay Kendal, James Ryczkowski, Angie Ahlgrim, Joel Lavarda, Tom Zeise-Zeise Construction, John Gretzinger-Zeise Construction, Tucker Moynihan, Dave Alsteen, Bruce Beth, Kurt Wolf, Robert W. Krzyzanowski -wendelcompanies.com

4. Approval of Minutes – Common Council-03-14-2023

**MOTION: Holman/McDonald**

*Motion to approve minutes with the amendments recommended for Common Council -03-14-2023.*

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

5. Treasurer's Report

**MOTION: McDermid/Bahrke**

*Motion to approve Treasurer's Report and place on file*

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

6. Bills Payable – March

**MOTION: McDermid/Coopman**

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

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

7. **Reports: written reports submitted**

✓ Administrator Report

✓ Police Department Report

- ✓ Municipal Court Report
- ✓ Fire Department Report  
Currently Fire Engine 1311 out of service right now due to waiting for parts to come in. Thank you to the Fire Department members for helping with the Fire station project. Also Thank Jim Timm for twenty years of service with the Fire Department.
- ✓ Street Department Report  
The trees that have been taken down this year by street department are they going to be replanted?
- ✓ Building Inspector Report
- ✓ Utility Commission Report/Minutes
- ✓ Library Report

**MOTION: McDermid/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:**

Kurt Wolf spoke on behalf of the Sno Jokers the Memorial Day planning is going well the following is lined up,

- Carnival is booked
- Firework guys are lined up
- Firework donation letters are out to public and coming back at steady pace.

Christine Grzelak would like to start a Trick or Treat Trail for the public at the Westside Beach trail. This would possibly be on Saturday October twenty eighth from ten am until noon. Mrs. Grzelak is asking the city to use the restroom facilities, leave gate open, and the trail. The Westside Beach trail is open to public so it would be able to be used but, the bathrooms are shut down at this time of year already and the gate. The city would be able to leave the gate open if no snow and the trail is open to the public but the restrooms will be closed due to the weather.

Brain Sauerhage brought fourth to the council the possibility of relocating his tattoo business to the city. There is no city ordinance against tattoo parlors and should not be a problem.

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

**Old Business:**

9. WIDOA Fire Station Project update-

A. Presentation New Fire Station Design Renderings- Wendell/Five Bagels

Robert Krzyzanowski Wendel Five Bugles Design and Zeise Construction presented the updates on the fire station. As of today the design is about sixty to seventy percent done. Looking to have the designs out on the street by May 8th and ready to receive bids first week of June. Five Bugels, Zeise and the City have been meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Krzyzanowski went over the designs of the fire station. Mr. Zeise

went over the financial aspects of fire station which is on schedule. Supplies that are needed for the fire station should come within a reasonable time frame.

## **NO ACTION TAKEN**

### 10. Utilities New Substation Proposal-Follow up

Utility Manager Greg Kuhn brought forth new substation proposal last month. The council asked for a better estimate and explanation of why the current two substations (Jackson and Lemirande Substations) could not be repaired and upgraded. Bruce Beth from Forster Electrical Engineering Inc explained that Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities two substations are connected to WE Energies' 34.5 KV distribution systems, which transforms voltage to 4.16 KV for distribution throughout the city. Besides the 4.16 KV distribution circuits supplied by these substations, Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities owns a 34.5 KV circuit tapped from WE Energies ahead of the supply to the Lemirande Substation. Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities owns both 4.16 KV and 34.5 KV distribution circuits to serve your customers. Several other municipal utilities successfully use those voltages to serve their customers. A 34.5 KV supply works great to serve customers 1,000 KVA or greater and a 4.16 KV supply works great to serve up to 500 KVA. Since one distribution system is fed from the other, the negative is you need to build all the capacity and redundancy into two distribution systems. Those utilities which operate a single distribution system of 12.47 KV or 24.94 KV are not faced with this duplication of facilities. In the other 34.5/4.16 KV utilities' cases, they connect a substation to ATC to supply their 34.5 KV system and use their own 34.5 KV lines to supply their 4.16 KV system. In Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities' case, you don't presently have an investment in 138 to 34.5 KV substations or a network of 34.5 KV lines throughout the city. And your two 34.5 to 4.16 KV substations are nearing end of life. You will likely need to stick some maintenance investments into Jackson Substation in the near future and parts are no longer available to extend the life of the Lemirande Substation if something fails. The estimated cost of upgrading and maintaining the two substations is \$9,150,000, of which each substation is estimated at \$2,930,000 and the underground circuits to connect the one new substation to the distribution system are estimated at \$363,000. The other 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.

Forster Electrical Engineering Inc recommends the option to build new substation on a 10 acre parcel on County Highway I. Forster Electrical Engineering Inc. feel this is the best value plan to be reliably serve the citizens of Oconto Falls.

**MOTION: Bahrke/McDonald**

*Motion to go forward with plan A to build a new substation and approve the bids.*

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

**MOTION: McDermid/Bahrke**

*Motion to pursue financing options for new substation.*

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

**New Business:**

11. American Legion Post 302 Terry Umentum Plaque

Mike Krause spoke 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.

**MOTION: Holman/McDermid**

*Motion to approve the American Legion Post 302 Terry Umentum Plaque*

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

12. Picnic Table Rental & Delivery Policy Review

Park and Rec Committee discussed the cost and delivery of tables around the city. This was evaluated because of the amount of time spent on the delivery and pick up of tables when the time could be utilized to do more efficient street duties. A charge of ten dollars was added for the tables to be delivered and picked to citizens' homes to help offset the cost. The Par and Rec Committee did decide to wave the fee for community events. The delivery of tables was also eliminated due to liability. The concern was that this is a service the city has had for the community for a long time and would like to stay. Many business and community members benefit from this service. It draws people into the city for community events which benefits a lot of business and people in the city.

**MOTION: Bahrke/Holman**

*Motion to remove rental fee from the city Fee Schedule for picnic tables and provide delivery the City of Oconto Falls.*

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

13. Chamber request to Use Eastside Beach 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays June, July, August

Chamber requested the use of the Eastside Beach for the summer concert that is held on the fourth Fridays of June, July and August.

**MOTION: McDermid/McDonald**

*Motion to approve Chamber request to use Eastside Beach 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of June, July, August.*

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

14. Request to Use Eastside Beach Sept 23rd or 30<sup>th</sup> Oconto County Public Health  
Oconto County Public Health would like to use the Eastside Beach on September twenty third to recognize recovery month. To help raise awareness to drug, alcohol recovery for anyone that has suffered with addiction. Also to celebrate anyone that is in recovery the hard work they put in everyday to stay sober and clean and have a fun activity that would be free of alcohol and drugs. There would be food trucks, games music.

**MOTION: McDonald/Coopman**

*Motion to go approve to Use Eastside Beach Sept 23rd or 30<sup>th</sup> Oconto County Public Health*

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

15. City Engineering Request For Proposal  
Administrator Wills brought forth City Engineering & Utility Request for Proposal that it would be a great asset to the city to have a City Engineer to help with projects. The Engineering Consultants would develop street replacement and management plan, apply and manage grants to ensure grant deadlines and requirements get met. The cost would be on as need, seeking not an annual minimum of work. The Engineering consultants would be shared by City and Utility.

**MOTION: Bahrke/McDonald**

*Motion to accept City Engineering Request for Proposal and publish as necessary.*

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

16. Application for Temporary Class B/Class B Retailer's License Oconto Falls Sno- Jokers

**MOTION: McDermid/Coopman**

*Motion to approve Temporary Class B/Class B Retailer's License for Sno- Jokers*

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

17. Two Year Operators License Applications, Jeffery McDonald, Allison McDonald, Kurt Wolf

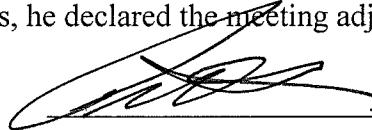
**Motion: Bahrke/Holman**

*Motion to approve the two year operator's license for Jeffery McDonald, Allison McDonald, Kurt Wolf*

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

18. 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 8:45pm.

  
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City Administrator Peter Wills