

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
COMMON COUNCIL
JOINT COUNCIL & UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING**

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

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023 – 6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Brad Rice

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Brad Rice, Aldermen: Devin Wirtz, Mathew McDermid, Marty Coopman, Ashley Bahrke, and Tim Holman.
Commission President James Kardoskee, Commissioners: James Patenaude, Bart Schindel, and Christos Anastasopoulos

Excused: Jeff McDonald

Also Present: Administrator Peter Wills, Utility Manager Greg Kuhn, Utility Customer Service Representative Beth Rank, and Michelle Tester

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL – None

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

Old Business:

1. Substation Budget Update

Kuhn discussed the bids that were received for the substation transformers; this is the largest variable in the project. The original substation project quotes came in at \$4.7 million. The updated substation project quote utilizing the current transformer bids came back at \$6.7 million. Kuhn explained the options available for moving forward with the project with ordering one transformer now and waiting to purchase the second versus ordering both transformers with staggered build dates. Kuhn suggested accepting the transformer bids for two transformers and paying 50% on one transformer at this time. The contract would be signed for the two transformers with the second transformer being built at a later date to separate manufacturing processes. Kuhn explained it has been 6 years since the last electric rate case and that through staffing reductions and efficiencies, the utility has been able to keep electric rates steady. Kuhn explained the substation project will necessitate a rate case. Kuhn discussed that rates are set off of the materials being installed, not off of how much the utility finances. WPPI performed a rate analysis and estimates that by moving forward with the \$6.7 million project financing, the electric

would be looking at a total of an approximate 12% rate increase over two years. The utility would use revenue bonds for the financing.

2. Transformer Bid Review with Possible Action

Motion: Coopman/Schindel

Motion to recommend to Council that the Utility proceed with the purchase of two transformers from Pennsylvania Transformers with staggered build dates.

Roll Call Vote: Coopman, Schindel, Anastasopoulos, Patenaude, and Kardoskee, voting aye – **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion: Bahrke/Wirtz

Motion to proceed with the purchase of two transformers from Pennsylvania Transformers with staggered build dates.

Roll Call Vote: Bahrke, Wirtz, McDermid, Coopman, voting aye – **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Cigarette – Tobacco License Application: Oconto Falls MarketPlace Corp.

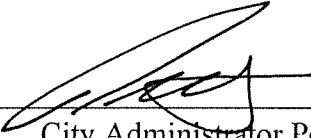
Motion: McDermid/Holman

Motion to approve the Cigarette – Tobacco License Application for Oconto Falls MarketPlace Corp. contingent on the surrender of the current license.

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

4. 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 6:45 pm.



City Administrator Peter Wills