

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING**

Council Chambers – Municipal Building
500 N. Chestnut Avenue - Oconto Falls, WI. 54154
TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2023 – 7:00 pm

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: Marty Coopman, Ashley Bahrke, Tim Holman and Devin Wirtz

Also Present: Administrator Peter Wills, Deputy Clerk Jenny Friedman, Utility Manager Greg Kuhn, Fire Chief Tim Magnin, Street Superintendent Alan Winkler, Ryan Raatz R&R Assessing, Rick Raatz, Ben Andrews with MSA, John Senn, Jeff Senn, Kerry Senn, Valerie Greetan

Absent: Mathew McDermid, Jeff McDonald

4. Approval of Minutes – Common Council 11.14.2023, Special Council Public Hearing 11.27.2023, Special Common Council 11.27.2023

MOTION: Holman/Wirtz

Motion to approve minutes Common Council 11.14.2023, Special Council Public Hearing 11.27.2023, Special Common Council 11.27.2023

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

5. Treasurer's Report October

MOTION: Wirtz/Holman

Motion to approve treasurers reports for October as presented.

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

6. Bills Payable – November

MOTION: Wirtz/Bahrke

Motion to approve the Bills Payable as presented for November.

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

7. **Reports: written reports submitted**

✓ Administrator Report

✓ Police Department Report

- ✓ Municipal Court Report
- ✓ Fire Department Report
- ✓ Street Department Report
- ✓ Building Inspector Report
- ✓ Utility Commission Report/Minutes
- ✓ Library Report

MOTION: Holman/Wirtz

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:

R&R Assessing expressed concern that they weren't offered an option to counter offer the City of Oconto Falls assessor. R&R Assessing thanked The City of Oconto Falls for the years of service with R&R Assessing.

Citizen brought a concern if R&R Assessing was given the chance to counter offer with a five-year contract before going with the new assessors, they would have been able to accommodate. Administrator Wills stated that there was a phone call made to R&R Assessing and at that time a five-year plan with external wasn't an option so the city looked elsewhere.

Citizens showed concern that the Eastside Beach would be closed and have no docks and lifeguards.

Council explained that the beach is not closed. Citizens can still utilize the beach for swimming but the docks and raft would not be put out and there would be no lifeguard services. The docks and raft are not being put out due to liability issues.

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

9. Committee Reports

Emergency Management Committee Report-N/A

Joint Review Board-N/A

Library Board-N/A

Main Street Committee Report-N/A

Park & Recreation Committee-N/A

Personnel Committee Report-N/A

Planning Commission Report-11.29.2023

Union Negotiating Committee-11.07.2023

Utility Commission Report-11.20.2023

No Action Taken

Old Business:

10. WI DOA NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT GRANT- FIRE STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Fire Station project is about two/three weeks ahead of schedule according to Zeise's plans. Fire Chief Magnin will start the annual report so that the final funds can be

requested in January 2024. The apparatus bay doors are expected to be placed in the week of December eighteenth. The fire station budget is still holding well.
NO ACTION TAKEN

11. Ordinance 23-011 Annexation portion of Columbia Street from the Town of Oconto Falls.

MOTION: Bahrke/Coopman

Motion to approve the Ordinance 23-011 Annexation portion of Columbia Street from the Town of Oconto Falls.

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

12. 2024 WI DNR Urban Forestry Grant Approved

Administrator Wills applied for this grant a couple months ago and the city was approved for five thousand dollars. This would be a fifty-fifty match. These funds would help with cutting down trees, labor hours and replacing trees. With applying for this grant the first year it is strongly recommended to apply again the next two years.

No Action Taken

New Business:

13. 2024 Proposed Fee Schedule

Fee schedule needs to change the following:

- PD request per recording \$5 plus cost of media device
- 55 gal. compacted size container Construction waste only
- HVAC/AC \$60
- Heating \$60
- Electric \$60
- Single Family Heating & AC \$120
- Other (siding, roofing, fence windows, ect.) \$60

MOTION: Wirtz/Holman

Motion to approve the 2024 Proposed Fee Schedule with amended changes made.

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

14. Associated Bank Closing Oconto Falls Branch March 1, 2024.

The Associated Bank is closing its branch in Oconto Falls. This is the city's primary bank. The city would need to open an account with one of the other banks in town to do the day-to-day operations. Requested Administrator get new account information from three local institutions.

No Action Taken

15. Wisconsin Police Union 2024-2026 Contract

The three-year contract was worked out with the Union representative and all parties have come to agreements.

MOTION: WIRTZ/COOPMAN

Motion to approve Wisconsin Police Union 2024-2026 contract.
Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

16. GFL 2024 Garbage & Recycling Pickup Tuesdays Citywide
GFL notified the city in December that Starting January 1, 2024, the City of Oconto Falls will have garbage and recycling pick up on Tuesdays only. The Recycling will still be every other week.

No Action Taken

17. Civil Rights Nondiscrimination Polices for Federal FEMA Grant-Fire Dept
This grant was applied for two years ago by the Fire Department. The Civil Rights Nondiscrimination Policy has to be in place for this grant.

MOTION: Bahrke/Holman

Motion to approve Civil Rights Nondiscrimination Polices for Federal FEMA Grant-Fire Dept as presented.

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

18. Resolution 23-010 2024 3% Employee Wage Increase

MOTION: Wirtz/Coopman

Motion to approve Resolution 23-010 2024 3% Employee Wage Increase.

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

19. City Attorney Hanaway Ross Law Firm 2024-2025 Contract
City of Oconto Falls is waiting for the new formal contract. The 2022 contract only went through January 2023. The contract will then need to be updated. The year 2023 fees were \$150 per hour and the paralegals \$60 per hour. For the year 2024 it is looking to be raised to \$185 per hour and \$85 per hour for paralegal. The legal cost to the city has been reduced over all by about forty thousand dollars with going with Hanaway Ross.

MOTION: Bahrke/Holman

Motion to approve the contract when it comes to the administrator for that year term.

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

20. Approval to contract with MSA consultants for the amount of \$3,000 of ARPA funds, previously committed to Columbia St, to apply for CDBG Grant Application- Columbia Street Project for over \$1 Million, the funds would be used by MSA to do income survey of Columbia Street residents, to determine if qualify for CDBG funding. The City looking for additional funding for Columbia Street reconstruction. Council members inquired about the cost and questioned if good use of funds. Ben Andrews from MSA consultants addressed that there is very short timeline to do income survey of residents and compile results to WI DOA by February 14, 2024, to find out if approved in order to apply for the CDBG grant so funds can be received by 2025 if approved. It was questioned if the City can do this on their own, Administrator Wills advised he and Treasurer are preparing for Audit, need to have yearend information by end of January.

Ben Andrews with MSA spoke further on the grant requirements, that MSA is familiar with what is required in order to meet the deadline for the grant on February 15, 2024. If MSA aided the city with the work to receive this grant it would be a cost the city about three thousand dollars.

MOTION: Wirtz/Coopman

Motion to approve the Columbia Street project CDBG Grant Application Funding with MSA assisting the City in the preparation of income survey for the ARPA fund application.

Roll Call: Wirtz-yes, Coopman-yes, Bahrke-no, Holman-no (Tied Vote)

Absent: Mc Donald, Mc Dermid

Mayor Tie Breaking Vote-yes

MOTION CARRIED

21. No parking on corner of Maple and Green Bay Ave
Concern that traffic coming around the corner of Maple and Green Bay Ave if cars are parked there causing a blind corner hazard for all parties. There would still be parking across the street for the business to utilize.

MOTION: Coopman/Wirtz

Motion to recommended no parking on corner of Maple and Green Bay to Ordinance Committee.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

22. Update on New Liquor law Act 60
This law now has venues having to carry their own liquor license. Also, distilleries being able to sell directly from the distillery. At this time no business in the city is affected.
No Action Taken

23. Confirmation of the Clerk's election inspector appointments for a two-year term: Debbie Jones, Pat Trudell, Stephen Taylor, Tracy Merges, David Merges, Mary Beth Rice, Judy Kostreva, Dawn Nasgovitz, Ruth Magee, Gisela Peterson, Chique Tousey-Tabar, JoAnna Buhrandt and Rachel Rugg.
These listed are the election workers that are currently. There will be a need in 2025 for a new chief inspector due to the current inspector will be retiring.

MOTION: Coopman/Wirtz

Motion to approve Confirmation of the Clerk's election inspector appointments for a two-year term: Debbie Jones, Pat Trudell, Stephen Taylor, Tracy Merges, David Merges, Mary Beth Rice, Judy Kostreva, Dawn Nasgovitz, Ruth Magee, Gisela Peterson, Chique Tousey-Tabar, JoAnna Buhrandt and Rachel Rugg.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

24. Application for Temporary Class "B"/Class "B" retailer's License: St. Anthony School Annual Fishing Derby February 10, 2024.

MOTION: Holman/Coopman

Motion to approve Application for Temporary Class "B"/Class "B" retailer's License: St. Anthony School Annual Fishing Derby February 10, 2024.

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

25. Two-year operator's license application: Linda Peterson

MOTION: Bahrke/Holman

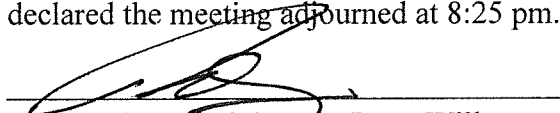
Motion to approve Two-year operator's license application: Linda Peterson.

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

26. 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 8:25 pm.



City Administrator Peter Wills