

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS  
COMMON COUNCIL**  
Council Chambers – Municipal Building  
500 N. Chestnut Avenue - Oconto Falls, WI 54154  
**TUESDAY – APRIL 16, 2024– 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: Jeff McDonald, Ashley Bahrke, Mathew McDermid, Tim Holman, Marty Coopman (arrived 6:09pm)

Absent: Devin Wirtz

Also present: Administrator Peter Wills, Deputy Treasurer Eve Wallace, Police Chief Brad Olsen, Street Superintendent Alan Winkler, Utility Manager Greg Kuhn, Fire Chief Tim Magnin, Valerie Greetan, Jim Patenaude, Mary Beth Rice, Richard Crommel, Carol Crommel, Kevin Wirtz, Mark Krumrei, Clint Braun, Carrie Hill, Brent Hill, Carter Hill, Ethan Hill, Stephanie Holman, Alexa Norton, Chase Braun, Bridget Morrow

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

**Old Business:**

1. Columbia Street Annexation from Town of Oconto Falls Farm Rd to County I  
The Town of Oconto Falls approved the petition for annexation of Columbia Street from Town of Oconto Falls Farm Road to County I. All the appropriate paperwork has been submitted and the public hearing is ready to be set.

**MOTION: McDonald/Holman**

*Motion to accept the annexation and set public hearing for May 14, 2024 at 6:45pm.*

**Voice Vote:** McDonald-yes, Holman-yes, Coopman-yes, McDermid-yes, Bahrke-no

**Absent:** Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

2. Borrowing for Fire Dept & City Projects
  - a. Borrowing for City Portion of New Fire Station cost  
The estimated city cost of the new fire station will be \$370,000.
  - b. Roof repair for 98 Jackson St Fire Station to include in borrowing  
To replace the old roof on the old fire station it will cost an estimated \$110,000.
  - c. Softball Field Fence  
To replace/repair the fence at Memorial Field the estimated cost would be \$38,000.  
The financing for the new fire station additional expenses and old fire station roof has been quoted with a fixed rate of 5.65% over 20 years. The financing for the fence has been quoted with a fixed rate of 5.25% over 10 years.

**MOTION: McDermid/Coopman**

*Motion to proceed with \$500,000 financing with the twenty-year term for the old fire station roof, new fire station and fence at Memorial Field.*

**Roll Call-** McDermid-yes, Coopman-yes, McDonald-yes, Bahrke-yes, Holman-yes

**Absent-**Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

3. Civic Systems Accounting System Contract

The current accounting system that is being used will not be supported after 2025 and needs need to be updated. The utility would like to move forward so everyone can be on board for training. At this time, this accounting system is compatible with the current utility billing system and would be stored in the cloud.

**MOTION: Bahrke/Holman**

*Motion to pay for the Civic System Accounting System in the amount of \$37,900 out of Fund Balance in 2024 and continue with maintenance fees in future budgets.*

**Roll Call-** Bahrke-yes, Holman-yes, McDermid-yes, Coopman-yes, McDonald-yes,

**Absent-**Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

4. Snow Plowing -Fence Repair

The city has provided the estimated damage to the Wirtz fence to the insurance company. The insurance company has denied this claim. Kevin Wirtz stated the fence has been up for nine years with no problem until this year when the 3ft blade was dropped to push back the snow. In the future claims will be reviewed case by case

**MOTION: McDermid/McDonald**

*Motion to reimburse Kevin Wirtz \$5,953.71 for fence repair.*

**Roll Call-** McDermid-yes, McDonald-yes, Bahrke-yes, Holman-yes Coopman-no

**Absent-**Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

5. Presentation to Departing Officials

A. Mayor Brad Rice

B. Municipal Judge Jim Patenaude

Administrator Wills thanked Mayor Brad Rice and Municipal Judge Jim Patenaude for their years of service on behalf of the City of Oconto Falls.

**No Action Taken**

Adjourn Sine Die

New Council Called to Order at 6:41pm

Roll Call: Mayor Clint Braun, Marty Coopman, Tim Holman, Jeff McDonald, Ashley Bahrke, Mathew McDermid

Absent: Devin Wirtz

Administer Oath of Office

**Deputy Treasurer** administered Oath of Office to:

Jeff McDonald – District 1-1,2,6, &8 Alderman  
Tim Holman– District 3-5 Alderman  
Marty Coopman – District 2-3,4&7 Alderman  
Clint Braun-Mayor  
Richard J Cromell- Municipal Judge

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL** - Citizen in-put will be limited to 3 minutes.

Mary Beth Rice thanked the city for all they have done and Brad Rice for the years of service and dedication to the city.

**New Business**

1. Elect a Council President.

**Mayor** opened the floor to nominations for Council President. Ashley Bahrke was nominated. **Mayor asked again if there were any other nominations for City Council President.** There were no further nominations for Council President.

**MOTION: Holman/Coopman**

*Motion to nominate Ashley Bahrke for Council President.*

**Roll Call-** Holman-yes, Coopman-yes, McDermid-yes McDonald-yes, Bahrke-yes,

**Absent-**Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

2. Approval of Appointments by Mayor.

**MOTION: Coopman/Holman**

*Motion to approve the Appointments of the Mayor as presented.*

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

3. Approval of Appointments by City Administrator.

**MOTION: McDermid/Bahrke**

*Motion to approve the Appointments of the City Administrator as presented.*

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

4. Approval of Appointments by the Emergency Director

**MOTION: Holman/McDonald**

*Motion to approve the Appointments of the Emergency Director as presented.*

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

5. Resolution 24-007; a resolution designating newspaper for legally required notices.

**MOTION: Bahrke/Coopman**

*Motion to approve Resolution 27-007; a resolution designating newspaper for legally required notices.*

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

6. Council Member Request-Change of Council Meeting Time to 6:00pm  
Alderman Holman asked opinion on changing the monthly council meeting times to 6:00pm.  
Concerns that were brought up:

- ❖ Any meetings held prior to the council meeting citizens will not be able to make it due to they might still be at work.

*These meetings can be held at a different date and time.*

**MOTION: Bahrke/Holman**

*Motion to change council meetings to 6:00pm.*

**Roll Call-** Bahrke-yes, Holman-yes, McDermid-yes McDonald-yes, Coopman-no,

**Absent-**Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

The Common Council Meetings at 6:00pm will start in June.

7. Ordinance Amend Ch 250 Fire Prevention

This ordinance is to update Chapter 250 Fire Prevention to have refence of state statue.

**MOTION: McDermid/McDonald**

*Motion to approve Ordinance Amend Ch 250 Fire Prevention.*

**Roll Call-** McDermid-yes, McDonald-yes, Bahrke-yes, Holman-yes, Coopman-yes,

**Absent-**Wirtz

**Motion Carried**

8. Ordinance Amend Ch168-8 Animals & Ch 360 Park and Rec-Dogs in Park

The Council has requested to have animals permitted at the ski tow area, but park ordinances state no dogs.

**MOTION: Coopman/ Bahrke**

*Motion to refer Ordinance Amend Ch168-8 Animals & Ch 360 Park and Rec-Dogs in Park to Ordinance Committee*

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

9. Fiber IRU Transfer Agreement

Oconto Falls Utility received a notice a month ago that Spectrum/Charter is acquiring CCI/Astrea and the IRU agreement will need to change to Charter/Spectrum.

Charter/Spectrum has agreed to the same agreement that Utility currently has in place with CCI/Astrea.

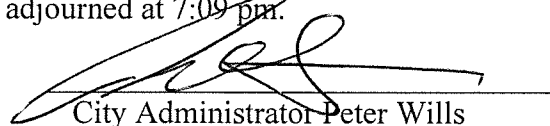
**MOTION: McDermid/McDonald**

*Motion to approve Fiber IRU Transfer Agreement.*

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

10. Adjournment

**Mayor Braun** asked if there was any further business before the meeting is adjourned. Having no further business, he declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

  
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City Administrator Peter Wills