

Meeting of the Special City Council held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 Pursuant to Notice Duly Given:

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Heier at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Mayor Heier, Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski, Al Schreiber, Dean Reed, Jean Feldt (arrived at 5:03 p.m.), Robert Le Breck
Excused: Attorney Erickson
Also Present: Fire Chief John Reed, Police Chief Bernie Faith, Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, Sara Perrizo, Administrator and as recording secretary and other interested parties
3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Alderperson R. Reed
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Schreiber, seconded by D. Reed to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

6 ayes

5. Correspondence/Public Input.
Perrizo asked when the Council wishes to hold the public hearing on the 2017 budget. The consensus of the Council was to hold the hearing on November 15 at 5:30 p.m.
6. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Application for Temporary Class B Retailer's License – Machickanee Players – October 19, 21-23 and 28-30, 2016

Moved by Feldt, seconded by D. Reed to approve the application for Temporary Class B Retailer's License.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded vote.

6 ayes

- b. Building Inspection Duties for the City of Oconto
J. Reed explained that the Fire Department can no longer dedicate the time necessary to properly perform the building inspection duties. Chief Reed needs the firefighters back to perform firefighter duties. Last month, 210 hours were spent by the fire department on building inspection work, which is a reflection of people building and making improvements to their homes. At this point, it is not possible continue to put in the hours needed to achieve the highest standard necessary to properly do the building inspection job. The members of the fire department are firefighters and EMT's first. Building inspectors often have a four-year degree and other extensive training, which is not possible for our staff. Due to that, they often spend more time researching issues and may make a mistake at some point that could prove costly to the City.

Perrizo explained that we had previously used an independent contractor for building permitting. The contractor did not charge the City, but did keep the revenue from the permits. However, he did not do any code enforcement and, because he was not in the City daily, permits were missed at times. Perrizo does not recommend this option. Instead, her recommendation is to hire a full-time building inspector. Based on a survey that was done by Carlson-Dettman, a company who performs wage surveys, the average salary of a building inspector in 2014 was \$60,000 per year. That is the number that Perrizo would suggest putting in the budget and with benefits, it is approximately \$84,000.

Schreiber agrees that we need a full-time building inspector. We need someone “on the ground” in the City. Part of the reason that this is so difficult right now is that a lot of this work wasn’t done for 20 years. If we get someone here who wants to do the job, they should pay for themselves. The fire department did a great job with this, but it is taking too much of their time.

Bronikowski asked what we will do in the interim. She is concerned that if it takes a long time to find a full-time inspector, a safety issue could arise. Perrizo said that we could use the independent contractor for permitting. J. Reed stated that they are not just going to walk away from the building inspections and they will definitely help until the transition is complete.

Schreiber commented that one of our former building inspectors told people what they couldn’t do, but didn’t tell them what they had to do. We need to avoid that. He strongly recommended that J. Reed be a part of the interview process because he knows what is needed for this position. Feldt agrees with this and also stated that there can be some cross-over training. D. Reed stated that J. Reed and Perrizo need to look at the Building Inspector job description to determine what needs to be done and ensure that everything necessary is included.

Mayor Heier thanked J. Reed and his department for what they have done with the building inspections.

Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Schreiber to approve hiring a full-time Building Inspector.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded vote.

6 ayes

7. **Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Schreiber to adjourn at 5:21 p.m.**

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

6 ayes

Respectfully Submitted:
Sara J. Perrizo
Administrator