

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 pursuant to notice duly given.**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Heier.
2. Roll call: Mayor Heier, Al Schreiber, John Reed, Dean Reed, Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski, Jean Feldt, Attorney Calvert
Also present: Fire Chief Josh Bostedt, Parks & Recreation Director John Bostedt, Building Inspector Joe Last, Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Administrator Sara Perrizo and as recording secretary and other interested parties.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Feldt to approve the agenda.

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

6 ayes

4. Correspondence/Public Appearances

- a. 2020 Audit Report

Scott Sternhagen from Clifton Larson Allen was present to discuss the audit findings. A copy of the audit report is available in the City Administrator's office.

Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Bronikowski to approve the 2020 audit report.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

Abby Helnore, 102 Holtwood Way, met with a group of officials from the city regarding Ageson Pool. She felt the main concern in opening the pool in 2021 was the additional staffing needed. Helnore spoke with a person from the State and was told different information than John Bostedt had been told from the State Pool Inspector. She was told that the extra staffing is not needed for cleaning. Helnore also stated that the pool is chlorinated and outside, so she feels it is safe and she would like to see it open in 2021.

Amy Huggett, 225 Quincy Ave, stated that her son has used the pool three to four days per week in the past. She has observed two lifeguards behind the desk who were "not on task" and is wondering if two people are really needed there. She is all for the pool being open.

Rachel Brady, 140 Luby Ave, opined that social distancing does not need to be enforced and all that has to be done is putting up signs.

Jessica Kerwin, 3989 North River Road, is in favor of the pool opening. She uses it at least three days per week and it is good for the kids.

Abby Helnore spoke again and opined that the admission prices could be increased to cover the extra costs and also feels that season passes could be sold.

Garrett Sowle, 712 McDonald St, had conversations with the State and the City of Green Bay. These are guidelines, not requirements and Green Bay would be willing to share what they are doing. Sowle feels that city employees misled the Council.

Craig Alwin, 110 Holtwood Way, has heard that there are not enough lifeguards to operate the pool. His daughter is a lifeguard and was hoping to work at the pool this summer, but did not see any ads for the job. Her summer is now booked, but the high school is conducting a lifeguarding class right now.

Sue Anderson, 101 Merrill Lane, is a member of the Park & Rec Committee and is disappointed to hear that people think the Council was misled. Volunteers worked to get the pool open again and John Bostedt has limited staff to get the work done each year. There is nothing she would want more than to open the pool, but she feels that we should follow the CDC guidelines. We are trying to run the pool in as healthy of a manner as possible and this decision was not made lightly.

Steve Sowle, 522 Main St, asked if the city has applied for a pool permit for this year. Perrizo stated that we have the permit.

5. Discussion/Recommendation on:

a. Ageson Pool Operations in 2021

John Reed stated that he sat in the Park & Rec meeting, which was three hours long, and the information presented by John Bostedt was factual. He understands that Bostedt got another call from the State Inspector who stated that the guidelines can be loosened. All departments have budgets to follow. He inspected the pool and stated that it is the decision of the Council on whether it is opened. Other factors are involved, included difficulty in finding staff to work at the pool. He loves that people came forward on this issue and encourages involvement. The department heads here work together and manage the budget. Everyone wants the pool open, but we must be fiscally responsible. He suggested holding this item and not voting tonight so that the new information that was presented can be reviewed. Perrizo stated that can be done, but also said that the longer it takes to make a decision, the more difficult it will be to get the necessary work done to open the pool if that is the decision that is made.

Mayor Heier noted that we already have trouble getting lifeguards and opined that, if we only open part-time, it will be more difficult as most kids want full-time jobs for the summer. John Bostedt stated that he currently has seven lifeguards on the list. He has contacted them all and four have responded. One will not be returning this year and the other three have concerns about not getting enough hours and having to do the additional cleaning due to COVID. Bostedt has been in contact with the high school, and they have two guards who may be interested in working at Ageson Pool. Schreiber stated that it is difficult to get people to show up every day for work. A minimum of two guards are required and if they do not show up, the pool has to be closed.

Perrizo explained that, since the Council already voted on this issue, one of the alderpersons would have to request to reconsider their vote on closing the pool. Alderperson John Reed could not make the request because he was not yet on the Council when the vote took place. Alderperson Dean Reed stated that he would like to reconsider his vote so that there can be more discussion. Perrizo will put this on next week's Council agenda. Calvert suggested that the Council may want to refer this issue back to the Park & Rec Committee, as they made the original recommendation.

John Bostedt stated that he did have a conversation with an individual at the Green Bay Park & Rec department, who told him that they are having trouble with staffing for 2021. They intend to do the “basics” and take a chance with everything else. In a conversation with the State Pool Inspector last Tuesday, Bostedt was told that all CDC guidelines must be followed, and it was reiterated three times that the lifeguards can NOT do the COVID cleaning. The inspector stated at that time that she would put this in writing. However, Bostedt spoke with inspector again on Thursday, who then changed what she said and told him that the guidelines can be “tweaked”. He stated that he did not lie to the Council and he worked to reopen the pool on his own time after it was closed for three years. He has kept the pool permit live at all times. There were several attempts to get an adult manager for the pool, but one could never be found. Therefore the oldest lifeguard was given the manager position job. If Bostedt is called with a problem, he immediately goes to the pool. He cares about the pool. We have kids watching kids there, which concerns him. He has worked with the school to get guards each year. The City’s insurance company has said that we are covered either way, but noted that if we don’t feel as though we can open the pool safely, we should keep it closed. The County Health Nurse recommended following all of the guidelines and stated that if they can’t be followed, she wouldn’t recommend opening the pool this year. However, she has no authority over the city. Perrizo asked if the State inspector was willing to put it in writing that the guidelines can be “tweaked”. Bostedt stated that he asked, and she replied that it was really just her opinion on the situation.

Feldt feels like the COVID landscape is changing and we can’t control if there are new variants or if people are getting vaccinated. Until we know our State is safe, she feels uncomfortable opening the pool. It just doesn’t make financial sense this year, and we have other water near by that can be utilized.

Bronikowski has never thought that John Bostedt lied to the Council. She did speak with Green Bay and their decision regarding following the guidelines is different. She would like this to come back to the Council as there is a lot to reconsider. Schreiber reiterated that John Bostedt was following what he was told and stated that Bostedt never lied.

D. Reed stated that, in lieu of new information, he would like to reopen this item for discussion at the Council.

b. Department Reports

i. Building Inspection Report

Last reported that 73 permits were issued in April, which is a record number. There have been 146 permits issued year-to-date, with an estimated project value of \$1.5 million. Tractor Supply has begun renovations on the former Shopko building. There are two outstanding issues with houses that had fires in the city and two other homes with concerns that are being addressed.

ii. Police and Fire Reports

Rehberg reported that there were 40 ordinance violations and 529 calls for service in April. The year-to-date calls are up by 66% over last year. One thousand flags have been donated for city residents to wave when the military convoy comes through in August. The K-9 program is moving forward.

Josh Bostedt reported 110 total calls in April. Trainings were conducted and Ambulance 1013 was inspected and is in the process of being sold. Ambulance 1011 needs considerable repairs. An individual who is considering becoming a member of the fire service did a ride-along with our crew. Lt. Vande Voort is working on several programs and trainings and has been approved to be a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator. The DNR grant items have arrived. Four members of the department attended Hazmat training and over 7,000 feet of hose was tested in six hours.

iii. Park & Recreation Report

John Bostedt reported that there are 38 pavilion rentals and 321 Holtwood Campground rentals on the books for 2021. All seasonal spots are filled at Holtwood and the monthly sites are mostly full. Thirty-seven of the fifty slips have been rented at the Harbor and seven people have signed up for docks for Waterfest. The temporary fish cleaning station is up and running and \$19,297 in boat launch fees have been collected through April. All park bathrooms are open and the grass has been cut. The new campground manager started this week.

iv. Public Works Report

None.

v. Administrator Report

Perrizo reported that cash and investments as of March 31 were \$5.1 million. She, the mayor and John Bostedt had a meeting with the DNR and have begun negotiating a new contract for Copper Culture park. OKATO Manor was awarded the tax credits that they need to move forward with renovations and additions. On August 4, the longest retired military vehicle parade in the nation will stop in Oconto.

- c. Accounts Payable for the Month of March 2021 in the Amount of \$665,795.81, Payroll for the Month of March 2021 in the Amount of \$139,499.57 and Other Financial Reports as Presented

Moved by Schreiber, seconded by Bronikowski to approve the accounts payable, payroll and other reports.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

- d. Appointment of Randy Van Hulle to the Police & Fire Commission

Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Feldt to approve the appointment.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

- e. Alcohol Beverage License Applications and Appointment of Agents (see attached list)

Moved by Schreiber, seconded by Feldt to approve the application and appointments.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

- f. Approval to Purchase New Squad Car with Grant Money from Bond Foundation

Rehberg reported that the low bid is from Chrysler World in the Amount of \$31,205. This vehicle will be for the K-9 unit.

Moved by J. Reed, seconded by D. Reed to approve the purchase of a new squad car with grant money.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

- g. Approval of Resolution re: Three Year Statement of Intentions

John Bostedt reported that we do this each year to remain eligible for Harbor grants.

Moved by Bronikowski, seconded by R. Reed to approve the resolution.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

- h. Approval of Mooring Permit for 2021

John Bostedt stated that this is an agreement with Hi-Seas Marina. It is for 8 moorings at \$50 each.

Moved by D. Reed, seconded by J. Reed to approve the permit.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

6 ayes

- i. Approval of Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Sign Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto

Calvert explained that this is changing the ordinance regarding political signs. The current ordinance states that signs must be removed within 3 days after each election. The proposed ordinance changes that to 30 days. The current ordinance allows a maximum sign size of 8 square feet in residential and 16 square feet in non-residential districts. The proposed ordinance changes this to 16 square feet in residential and 32 square feet in non-residential districts. J. Reed asked if this includes flags. Calvert stated that flags are not addressed and noted that flags create a tough situation with regards to free speech. Rehberg stated that, if a flag has vulgar language, it must come down.

Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Schreiber to approve the ordinance.

Motion carried upon verbal roll call vote.

5 ayes, 1 nay (J. Reed)

6. **Moved by Schreiber, seconded by Bronikowski to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.**

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

M/C

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Perrizo, CPA
City Administrator