

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on
Tuesday, June 1, 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 Schreiber, seconded by D. Reed to approve the agenda.
Motion carried upon verbal voice vote. 6 ayes
4. Correspondence/Public Appearances - none
5. Discussion/Recommendation on:
 - a. Department Reports
 - i. Building Inspection Report
Last reported 39 permits were issued in May. Two inspection warrants were served due to living conditions of children. The house at 221 Erie Avenue had a fire, but it was found that the tenant was living there with no water or electricity, so Last locked up the home and Calvert filed paperwork in court. There was a call to the fire department for a possible gas leak at 1015 Collins Avenue and a garbage issue was discovered. Last and the Public Works Department went and cleaned everything up and will invoice the homeowner. Perrizo and Last met with the State regarding the grant for the property on Spies Road. An appraisal is being done on the property. A total of 185 permits have been issued year-to-date, with an approximate project value of \$2.2 million.
 - ii. Police and Fire Reports
Rehberg reported 65 ordinance violations and 697 total calls. Of the total calls, 187 were checks on businesses late at night. All officers have completed their required 24 hours of training and the department will get \$1,400 in reimbursement for the training. There is currently \$73,000 in the K-9 fund and a donation of a bullet proof vest and first aid kit for the K-9 was received. J. Reed mentioned that there may be training available for how to attend to the dog in an emergency and Josh Bostedt state that the department is working on that.

Josh Bostedt reported that the department is 65 ambulance calls ahead of last year with a total of 107 calls in May. The department did training with Oconto Hospital on code stroke and 12-lead ECG's. There was also training held on vehicle extrication. The three new career staff members have passed their AEMT training. The equipment from the DNR grant was received. The old white ambulance was sold for \$5,250. There would be a trade-in value of \$35,000-\$40,000 currently on Ambulance 1011, which needs about \$6,000 in

repairs. We need to consider what to do with this. Smoke alarms were received as part of a grant and all fire inspections were completed. They are working with local businesses on the MDA Fill the Boot campaign. The original request from Copperfest for a fireworks show at the Beyer Home was denied. The new plan is to shoot the fireworks off from the field by the Bond Center.

iii. Park & Recreation Report

John Bostedt stated that there are 64 pavilion reservations for this year. The Campground sold out for Memorial Day weekend and there are only two sites left for Copperfest and July 4th weekends. The golf carts will be arriving this week and there are now also two pedal boats and three easy glider bikes that can be rented. The new staff at the Campground are doing well. One seasonal camper backed out and that site is now rented for 3 ½ months. There are 23 reservations for the City Park campground. The fish cleaning station is up and running and 43 out of the 50 slips have been rented at the Harbor. The new Harbor Master is doing a good job. All park bathrooms are open, hanging baskets are up and mowing is under way. There will be a special Park & Rec meeting on June 2 to discuss activities for kids this summer. Two tree plantings were done with Oconto sixth graders and a poster contest was held. The Mott Street plantings are done and Copper Culture Museum opened last Friday. The teepee at Freedom Park was mortared and sealed by Jeremy and the Woman's Club has planted flowers there. Mayor Heier stated that there will be a volunteer clean-up day at City Park on June 5.

iv. Public Works Report - None

v. Administrator Report

Perrizo reported that the COVID relief amount for the City will be \$475,718.58. Once the money is received, she will bring an agenda item to the Council on where to spend the funds. Cash and investments as of April 30 were \$4.6 million. Perrizo, Bostedt and Mayor Heier met again with the DNR regarding the contract for Copper Culture Park. Negotiations continue. Perrizo, Last and Mayor Heier met with OKATO Manor regarding the upcoming renovation/addition project, which is moving forward. Planning for Waterfest continues. Perrizo met with a representative from Cellcom and negotiated a reduction in fees of approximately \$250 per month. The smoke alarms were installed on the administrative side of city hall and the new A/C unit was install for the MP room. Finally, Perrizo did some research on how other municipalities handle their Facebook pages and has made the decision to turn off comments on all posts on the City's page.

- b. Accounts Payable for the Month of April 2021 in the Amount of \$883,978.53, Payroll for the Month of April 2021 in the Amount of \$154,182.57 and Other Financial Reports as Presented

Moved by Schreiber, seconded by D. Reed to approve the accounts payable, payroll and other financial reports.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

- c. Appointment of Mary Frost and Reappointment of Sue Jacquart to the Oconto Housing Authority

Moved by Feldt, seconded by J. Reed to approve the appointments.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

- d. Reappointment of Nick Badendick and Jeff Werner to the Forestry Committee

Moved by Schreiber, seconded by Bronikowski to approve the appointments.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

- e. Ordinance Creating Oconto Municipal Code Section 11-2-17 Establishing a Daytime Curfew for Minors During School Hours in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto
Calvert explained that other municipalities have begun adopting similar ordinances. It gives officers more authority to stop and or cite kids who should be in school, but are not.

Moved by Bronikowski, seconded by J. Reed to approve the ordinance.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes, a nay (D. Reed)

- f. Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the ATV Ordinances in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto

Rehberg stated that, when the original ATV ordinance was adopted, the State Statutes and DNR regulations were included. Those regulations are designed for trail riding and allow unlicensed drivers to ride on city streets. This ordinance revision requires a valid driver's license to operate an ATV/UTV on city streets.

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

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

- g. Discussion re: Employees, Employment & Responsibilities (Request from Alderperson J. Reed)
J. Reed stated that the city has developed a culture to act on improperly filed complaints and to act as individuals instead of as a whole council. He gave examples of employees that he believes were treated unfairly due to the actions of a single individual. The bottom line is that employees have not been allowed due process in the past. Also, some complaints have been filed and no investigation done, while other anonymous complaints were investigated. He believes there is a disconnect between the city and the City Council and it's a culture issue. J. Reed attended meetings with John Bostedt and found that the Park & Rec Committee had issues with the City Council. He stated that no individual here, except the Mayor, has the authority to act as an individual. Everything must go through committee. All of the city department heads basically work seven days a week and John Bostedt has been saying for years that he needs more help. Also, employees who have retired were given no recognition by the Council. Bronikowski stated that those employees were acknowledged by the departments in which they worked, such at the Police & Fire Commission (PFC). R. Reed stated that the PFC is governed by State Stats Section 62.13 and is separate from the Council. Mayor Heier stated that the PFC should be giving recognition upon Police & Fire retirements. Schreiber stated that the recognition has never been consistent, but he tries to talk with city employees and tell them they are doing a good job. The Council only handle the money for the PFC. Also, it is not the alderpersons' job to direct employees. If there is a concern, it should be addressed with each department head. J. Reed reiterated that, as a group, he would like to see appreciation

given. He also spoke with John Bostedt and stated that the issues between the Council and the Park & Rec Committee needed to be fixed. Park & Rec had a meeting and four alderpersons attended, which was appreciated by the committee. Bronikowski stated that city residents do not always have the information to understand decisions made by the Council. Schreiber noted that we need to let the committees do their job. Rehberg noted that if an alderperson comes to him with a question, he has no problem with that as long as no one asks for special favors. Perrizo suggested that all alderpersons read the minutes of the committees if they wish to be more informed. J. Reed stated that he stands behind the employees and the Council and committees need to perform as a team. We can't act as individuals. D. Reed questioned whether the PFC members understand their duties. Perrizo stated that there is training available to them. Schreiber stated that if there is a problem with a certain committee, the committee meetings should be attended.

h. Approval to Purchase a Used Truck in an Amount Not to Exceed \$15,000

John Bostedt stated that they found a 2007 Chevy Silverado. It was inspected by the city mechanic. The cost will come out of the Parks vehicle non-lapsing account and the Parks capital projects account.

Moved by Feldt, seconded by Schreiber to approve the purchase.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

i. Approval to Purchase K-9 Dog With Bond Foundation Grant Funds

Rehberg stated that the cost will be \$14,500, including \$10,000 for the dog and \$4,500 for training.

Moved by Bronikowski, seconded by D. Reed to approve the purchase.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

j. Approval of Quote from Camera Corner Connecting Point in the Amount of \$4,680 for Office 365 Conversion

Perrizo explained that this will convert the city's email system to Microsoft, allowing for archiving of emails to meet State Statute requirements. This should also allow the use of Microsoft Teams for live streaming of meetings.

Moved by Bronikowski, seconded by D. Reed to approve the quote.

Motion carried upon electronically recorded roll call vote.

6 ayes

6. **Moved by D. Reed, seconded by Bronikowski to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.**

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

M/C

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Perrizo, CPA
City Administrator