

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the City Council in the Matter of State and Federal Aid for Improvements at Oconto – J Douglas Bake Municipal Airport held on November 9, 2021 Pursuant to Notice Duly Given:

Present: Mayor Heier, Al Schreiber, Dean Reed, Jean Feldt, Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski, Attorney Calvert, Building Inspector Joe Last, Park & Rec Director John Bostedt, Director of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary

Mayor Heier opened the public hearing of the City Council at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Heier asked three times for public input. Hearing none.

Motion by Feldt, second by D. Reed to close the Public Hearing of the City Council at 6:02 pm.

Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on November 9, 2021 Pursuant to Notice Duly Given:

1. Regular Meeting of the City Council called to order by Mayor Heier at 6:02 pm.

2. Roll Call: Mayor Heier, Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski, Al Schreiber, Dean Reed, Jean Feldt, and Attorney Calvert

Excused: John Reed

Also Present: Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Building Inspector Joe Last, Director of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, Parks & Recreation Director John Bostedt, City Administrator and as Recording Secretary Brittney Bickel, and other interested parties

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Alderperson Feldt.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Schreiber, second by Bronikowski to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

5 ayes

5. Approval of Minutes as Presented from City Council and any Special Council Meetings

Motion by Schreiber, second by D. Reed to approve the minutes.

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

5 ayes

6. Approval of Department Reports as Presented

Motion by Bronikowski, second by Schreiber to approve the department reports.

Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

5 ayes

7. Correspondence/Public Input.

Mayor Heier informed the Council that he had coordinated with the high school to have a student job shadow him for around 4 hours on Monday. He introduced the student to the City of Oconto staff and took him around the City.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Accounts Payable for the Month of September 2021 in the Amount of \$1,168,067.35, Payroll for the Month of September 2021 in the Amount of \$165,641.11 and Other Financial Reports as Presented

b. Approval of Revision of Electrical Permit Fees.

- a. Approval of invoice from Riesterer & Schnell, Inc. in the amount of \$19,445.77 for John Deere lawn mower.
- c. Approval of invoice from B&M Technical Services in the amount of \$4,023.00 for repairs to the flow meter at the WWTP.
- d. Approval of Pay Request #1 from DeGroot Inc. for utility extensions on Timber Trail.

Motion by D. Reed, second by Schreiber to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes

Mayor Heier made a request to move agenda item 9a to after agenda item 9d.

Motion by D. Reed, second by Schreiber to move the agenda item.

Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes

9. Discussion/Action/Recommendation on the Following:

- b. Approval of a Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid.

Attorney Frank Calvert, manager at the Airport, explained there is a property (approx. 1.5 acres) along Airport Road in the runway approach that has been there for a considerable amount of time. There are 20-foot trees on the property as well as a house. An elderly man lived there, he passed away recently at age 99, so the Airport spoke with the family about purchasing the property. The Airport will pay for this purchase within the restrictions of their 2021 Budget, with the help of Airport Improvement Aid. This will be 90% Federal, 5% State, 5% Airport funded.

Motion by D. Reed, second by Feldt to approve a Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid.

Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes

- c. Approval of a Resolution Approving a Pedestrian / Biking Path for the Spies Road Reconstruction Project.

Wusterbarth explained that for the 2 LGIP grants thru the DOT that he applied for this month are based off points in safety. This would provide safe travel for pedestrians.

Motion by Feldt, second by R. Reed to approve a Resolution Approving a Pedestrian / Biking Path for the Spies Road Reconstruction Project.

Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes

- d. Approval of a Resolution Approving a Pedestrian / Biking Path for the North Bay Shore Road Reconstruction Project.

Wusterbarth explained that for the 2 LGIP grants thru the DOT that he applied for this month are based off points in safety. This would provide safe travel for pedestrians.

Motion by D. Reed, second by Feldt to approve a Resolution Approving a Pedestrian / Biking Path for the North Bay Shore Road Reconstruction Project.

Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.

5 ayes

a. Approval of 2022 Budget.

Bickel explained that herself, Attorney Calvert, and the department heads worked together to do a lot of cutting to try to get the budget below the Levy Limit. After very careful and thorough investigation of the budget they were able to get it within \$87,891.51 of the Levy Limit. The remaining amount needs to come from some difficult decisions of the Council.

D. Reed asked if the ARPA money will be used to pay for the expenses that have been removed from the budget. Bickel explained that much of the amounts that were taken from the Capital Accounts from departments were for items that can be purchased with the ARPA funds. She has a list of these items available.

Wusterbarth brought up an expense that has been brought up over many years, the pool, which has general operational costs of over \$60,000 a year and over \$54,000 sitting in a Capital Account for a small part of the major repairs that need to be done (major repairs that were estimated around \$150,000). This would also solve some of the Parks & Rec Director's problems with labor and reduce overtime costs. Bickel explained if it was decided to close the pool, it would get us \$48,395 closer to meeting our Levy Limit (Revenues and Expenses). Attorney Calvert noted that he worked very closely with Bickel and the Department Heads and agrees this may be the only option. Feldt questioned if we looked into increasing the revenues in the budget items. She noted it's easy to find a large number and take it out of one area/one account, but did Bickel and Department Heads look at all small cuts or increases in budgeted amounts. Bickel explained we did slightly bump up revenues where acceptable like in the Law Enforcement revenues, but our budgeted amounts are all in line with previous years and what is expected in the upcoming year. There is no room to increase revenues or decrease expenses and still meet these projected numbers accurately. Wusterbarth agreed, Bickel and the Department Heads looked very closely at the revenue numbers and there are none that we can budget higher. Bronikowski asked when we hired the new firefighter last year, that was supposed to reduce overtime, but it did not. She believes we need to look more closely at the Fire Department budget and why it is going over costs and what we can do to control that. Bickel mentioned Chief Bostedt wanted more firefighters next year to try to control the overtime amounts. D. Reed stated he believes we could use another firefighter, but the amount of overtime it would save us does not cover the amount it would need to make this budget work. Feldt asked if we eliminate the additional firefighter position, the Council originally approved, would we be set with the budget. Bickel stated we would be. Wusterbarth mentioned even if we do eliminate this additional firefighter position, we should still look at the pool very hard. It doesn't only affect this budget; it affects future budgets. With increases in wages, health insurance, and other costs, and not knowing what future revenues will be, the Council needs to take this all into consideration. If the City does not have projects and Special Assessment revenue in the future, that is cutting a large amount of our revenue used to cover the pool expenses. Calvert added this year we were able to pull our large expense that we will be using the ARPA funds to pay for. Next year we will not have ARPA funds to help us. Bronikowski agreed, we need to trim as much as we can to get this budget at a healthy spot. Feldt disagreed and stated she does not support closing the pool. She argued we worked too hard to get it open, and there are people who like to use it. Bronikowski stated it is a struggle and a sore spot every year trying to fund the pool and find employees to work at the pool. She doesn't feel it is fair to taxpayers to cut funds for other necessary projects

to keep the pool open, which is a luxury. Bostedt reminded the Council the pool wages, utilities, and chemicals increase every year. Rehberg agrees that the pool is a nice luxury to have, but the expenses are high. Bostedt reminded the Council that the City has the Bond Center, the Oconto River, and City Park. Calvert brought up we considered other revenue sources for the pool, we considered funding the pool thru the Campground, but then we are taking away from repairs and maintenance that needs to be done at the Campground. These repairs are done using money from the Campers via Camping Fees, not by taxpayers' dollars. The Campground is self-sustaining. The money should stay in the Campground and its revenues should not be spent towards the pool. He mentioned that we looked at all options and did not just right off the pool, we looked hard at all options in fitting this in the budget. Schreiber asked what would we have to raise rates at the pool to make it profitable? Bostedt explained we considered this and calculated the numbers. If we triple the cost, the number of swimmers will dwindle, and we will be losing even more money. Our laborers still need to work there every day to keep the pool up to code, whether we have swimmers or not. Schreiber noted the pool had a 25-year life expectancy, and that has been exceeded by 15 years, we are fortunate to have had the pool as long as we have had it. Calvert and Wusterbarth stated that they strongly believe we should use the extra amount to put it into our General Fund, to help eliminate the chance of going over budget again next year. Schreiber clarified that we are allowing for one additional position in the Fire Department, it is the Fire Department's responsibility to use that position how ever they see fit, whether it be a new firefighter or the position of Lt of Administration. Bronikowski asked about the health insurance and buy-out options, wanting to look at those numbers again. Wusterbarth answered, if employees take their spouses insurance and not the City's, it saves the City a significant amount of money. Offering the buy-out option allows us to save money and offers an incentive to the employee. Calvert mentioned one of the spots that hurt our budget this year was a few employees going from single insurance policy to family. Wusterbarth suggested that if the recommendation to close the pool is made by the Council, he asks that they add that the addition that we demo the pool and fill in the bowl, and use the buildings for other purposes. The old pool is no longer an option, if the City wants a pool we need to go for a Referendum and get a new pool.

Motion by Bronikowski, second by Schreiber to approve the 2022 Budget with the changes of closing and filling in Aageson pool and eliminating the additional firefighter position.
Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 4 ayes, 1 nay (D. Reed)

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Schreiber, second by D. Reed to adjourn at 7:24 pm
Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.

5 ayes

Respectfully Submitted:
Brittney M. Bickel,
City Administrator