

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on  
Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, pursuant to notice duly given.**

1. Meeting called to order by Mayor Heier at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll Call: Mayor Heier, Roger Reed, Kim Bronikowski (via ZOOM), Al Schreiber, Dean Reed, Jean Feldt, John Reed, Attorney Calvert  
Also Present: Fire Chief Josh Bostedt, Parks & Recreation Director John Bostedt, Building Inspector Joe Last, Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and other interested parties.
3. Approval of Agenda  
**Motion by Feldt, second by D. Reed to approve the agenda.**  
**Motion carried upon verbal voice vote. 6 ayes**
4. Correspondence/Public Appearances: The Mayor congratulated Fire Chief Josh Bostedt on receiving the First Responder of the Year Award in District 89.

The Mayor, along with Ron and Kathy Hayes, presented the Rose Awards to Kenneth & Paulette Exferd and The Shop on Main.

Dale Thompson, 106 Robin Lane, stated regarding the wedding barn venue now event venue, he has been talking to neighbors who are opposed to the event venue and creating an ordinance to allow it. He handed out a list containing 17 neighbors' signatures. He is against a commercial business in a residential neighborhood. He explained last week he emailed a letter to the Mayor and to the Council members, and also sent texts out to follow up. Thompson summarized the letter: He was upset that the notification of the Public Hearing arrived late and was dated for the Veteran's Day. Thompson contacted Oconto County Zoning department and questioned him about the possible venue. He believes it should be commercially zoned and an ordinance should not be created to benefit a single resident, but the City as a whole. Thompson questioned whether they would open other event venues on the approximate 17 acres there. Leaves to many more possible events in the City. Changed from indoor/barn event to an outdoor event, and also increased the size of the venue.

Heather Thompson asked if she could donate her 3 minutes to Dale Thompson. The Mayor responded that she could. Thompson continued, referencing a wedding barn in Town of Glenwood in 2018 that was shut down for improper zoning. He quoted an interview from a neighbor in an article done by the Press Gazette after the venue was shut down. Thompson questioned if the Council has looked at the floodway or flood fringe maps. Most of the property on the Northside of the barn is in floodway AE, which would prohibit structures being built in that area, such as a fence. He believes the Council is moving forward on emotion instead of facts and figures, and a residential neighborhood should not have a commercial business.

Robert Rogall, 104 Robin Lane, recognized the Police and Fire employees in the room. He believes the City should recognize the first responders that live in the area of the possible event venue, himself included. 24/7 on call employees should not live next to a commercial business. He stated the trial wedding at the venue was very loud and vehicle lights were bright inside his bedroom and house.

Al Wickman, 110 Robin Lane, stated he bought his home 25 years ago. He bought his home because it was a peaceful and quiet neighborhood next to the river. He believes the venue/commercial

business will disrupt that in the City. He thinks the business traffic will be a safety issue, being next to the trail.

5. Discussion/Recommendation on:

a. Department Reports

- i. Building Inspection Report – Joe Last reported 34 permits issued in November, 451 total year-to-date. Finalizing the grant for Spies Road. It will be closed out soon. Chicago Street is still in progress, they will be checking on Friday if the vehicles are running or junk. All the permits for the year will be finalized soon.
- ii. Police and Fire Reports – Police Chief Mike Rehberg reported 35 ordinances in November, 469 total year-to-date. Currently 500 over last year. K-9 Falco will be having a demo. December 15<sup>th</sup> will be the fundraiser for the Police K-9 with Brother's Three. The Police Department will match up to \$500 of the donated delivery tips. December 18<sup>th</sup> Chief Rehberg and Ann Rehberg will be at the Shop on Main. December 19<sup>th</sup> is the annual Shop with a Cop. December 24<sup>th</sup> Chief Rehberg and Ann Rehberg will be taking donations at Thompson's County Market for Bread by the Bay. Fire Chief Josh Bostedt reported 156 total calls in November, 143 all calls, 125 ahead of last year.
- iii. Park & Recreation Report – John Bostedt reported Holtwood and Breakwater Park have been winterized. The handed-out sheets will be the final numbers for the 2021 year. Tomorrow, Bostedt, Bickel, and the Mayor have a ZOOM meeting with the DNR for Copper Culture State Park. Already taking 2022 campground reservations and harbor slip rentals.
- iv. Public Works Report – Jeremy Wusterbarth will be completing the Pacerway Report required by the DOT every 2 years, rating the 40 miles of road. Will have the report for the Council next meeting. LRIP grants were submitted for next year's projects. Fox 11 will be doing a short story on Splinter Causeway and they will be interviewing Jeremy tomorrow. The Street Department has been very busy clearing snow.
- v. Administrator Report – Attorney Calvert recommended to the Council that we do not have a January 4<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting and only have a January 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Brittney Bickel reported tomorrow December 8<sup>th</sup> herself, the Mayor, and John Bostedt have a ZOOM meeting with the DNR regarding the Copper Culture Park Agreement. For the New Year's Eve holiday, it was decided to have City Hall open on December 31<sup>st</sup> to collect real estate tax payments, but the other departments will be closed. On Monday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, City Hall will be closed, but other department's will be working. This will allow garbage pick-up to be uninterrupted. For public information purposes, Bickel began posting the City's monthly meetings calendar on Facebook and the City's website. A few messages have been received from residents that this was beneficial. All Levy and Tax Rate Worksheets were submitted to the County the end of November. Tax bills are to be mailed out December 8<sup>th</sup> by the County.

- b. Accounts Payable for the Month of October 2021 in the Amount of \$708,376.22, Payroll for the Month of October 2021 in the Amount of \$154,676.19, and Other Financial Reports as Presented

**Motion by J. Reed, second by D. Reed to approve the accounts payable, payroll and other reports.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote.**

**6 ayes**

- c. Recommendations for two-year term of Election Inspectors.

**Motion by Schreiber, second by R. Reed to approve recommendations for two-year term of Election Inspectors.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

- d. Approval of Resolution regarding Tax Incremental District (TID) Termination Resolution within The City of Oconto

**Motion by D. Reed, second by J. Reed to approve Resolution regarding Tax Incremental District (TID) Termination Resolution within The City of Oconto.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

- e. Original Alcohol Beverage Retail License Application for Neo Beverages, LLC, and Appointment of Jayasara Upadhyaya Sharma as Agent

**Motion by Feldt, second by Schreiber to approve the application and appointment of agent.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

**Recommendation from Fire Commission:**

- f. Discussion/Approval of ARPA Funds for Radio Antennas

Chief Bostedt explained there will be a \$20,000 increase in cost if we do not do this project with the County. The County is planning to start their project in January. J. Reed commented it is a matter of safety and this needs to be done.

**Motion by Schreiber, second by Feldt to approve the use of ARPA Funds for Radio Antennas.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

**Recommendation from Utility Commission:**

- g. Approve invoice from Midwest Meters Inc. in the amount of \$12,960.00 for new residential meters.

Wusterbarth explained PSC requires us to update our meters every 20 years. This is the cost for the first batch we received.

**Motion by Schreiber, second by Feldt to approve the invoice.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

- h. Approve the sale of 2015 Ram Promaster Van in the amount of \$10,500.00 to S&L Motors. Needs a new transmission at the estimated cost of \$11,700.00.

**Motion by Feldt, second by D. Reed to approve the sale.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

- i. Approve invoice from Midwest Meters, Inc. for \$37,000.00.

Wusterbarth explained PSC requires us to update our meters every 20 years. This is the cost for the first batch of service heads for the meters.

**Motion by Schreiber, second by J. Reed to approve the invoice.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

- j. Approve invoice from Full Service Organics Management, LLC for \$9,114.00.

Wusterbarth explained this is for our annual full sludge haul out.

**Motion by Schreiber, second by D. Reed to approve the invoice.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

**Recommendation from Plan Commission:**

k. Possible creation of new Outdoor Event Venue Ordinance.

Mayor Heier recommend we table this item until more information can be acquired.

**Motion by Schreiber, second by D. Reed to approve tabling this item.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

l. Certified Survey Map for Anita Jensen & Riley Sowle Property Located in the City of Oconto

**Motion by Schreiber, second by Feldt to approve the use of ARPA Funds for Radio**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

m. Certified Survey Map for LeTourneau Plastics Property, Inc. Located in the City of Oconto

**Motion by D. Reed, second by Schreiber to approve the Certified Survey Map.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

**Recommendation from Board of Public Works:**

n. Approve final pay request to DeGroot, Inc. for the Timber Trail extension project (to be handed out at meeting)

**Motion by D. Reed, second by Schreiber to approve pay request #4 in the amount of \$46,592.37.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

o. Approve final pay request to Peter's Concrete in the amount of \$17,223.70 (to be handed out at meeting)

**Motion by D. Reed, second by Feldt to approve the final pay request in the amount of \$20,610.77.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

p. Approve final pay request to Advance Construction in the amount of \$5,987.77 (to be handed out at meeting)

**Motion by D. Reed, second by Feldt to approve the final pay request in the amount of \$8,643.62.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

6. Committee may vote at approximately 7:30 p.m. to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1) (c) for discussion on personal matters for the following items:

i. Hire of Board of Public Works Employee

**Motion by D. Reed, second by J. Reed to enter into Closed Session at 6:50 pm.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

7. Committee may vote to reconvene into Open Session at approximately 7:45 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85 (2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

**Motion by D. Reed, second by R. Reed to return into Open Session at 6:57 pm.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

8. Action/Discussion on Matters from Closed Session

**Motion by Feldt, second by D. Reed to approve hiring the chosen candidate.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice recorded roll call vote. 6 ayes**

9. Adjourn

**Motion by Schreiber, second by D. Reed to adjourn at 6:58 pm.**

**Motion carried upon verbal voice vote.**

**6 ayes**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittney M. Bickel,  
City Administrator