

**CITY OF OCONTO**  
**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW COUNCIL**

City Hall – Council Chambers  
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 - 6:00 PM**

Draft for Approval

**First Meeting of the New Council called to order at 6:48 pm by Mayor John Panetti**

**Roll Call –**

Present: Mayor John Panetti, City Attorney Frank Calvert; Alderpersons: Butch Mehlberg, Steve Stock, John Wittkopf, Patsy Bake, Jean Feldt, and John Reed

Also present: Building Inspector Joe Last, Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Fire Chief Josh Bostedt, Parks & Recreation Director John Bostedt, Board of Public Works Director Jeremy Wusterbarth, City Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and other interested parties

Excused: none

**Administer Oath of Office –**

John Panetti – Mayor  
Butch Mehlberg – Alderperson At Large  
Steve Stock – Alderperson At Large  
John Wittkopf – Alderperson At Large  
Patsy J. Bake – Alderperson At Large

**Approval of Agenda –**

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg**

*Motion to approve the agenda as presented for the Council meeting on April 19, 2022.*

**Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

**Conduct of Meetings; Recognition of Council Members and the Public**

**Public Information Update from Attorney Calvert re: Open Meeting Law**

**Reorganizational Motions –**

- **Motion #1:** That the Regular Meeting of the Common Council for the City of Oconto shall be held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of each month beginning at **6:00 p.m.** and the Committee of the Whole shall meet on the **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** of each month beginning at **6:00 p.m.** except when such Tuesday is a holiday or election day and then the meeting shall be held the following Tuesday.
- **Motion #2:** That Robert's Rules of Order Revised be adopted as the rules governing the proceedings and meeting of the Common Council.
- **Motion #4:** That the Administrator has the authority by Ordinance Sec 3-2-12 (b) to place any delinquent special charges for current services on the current or next tax roll as a delinquent tax against the property.
- **Motion #6:** That the Committee of the Whole constitute and be the Board of Health for the

City of Oconto.

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Feldt**

*Motion to approve Motions #1, #2, #4, & #6 as presented, and bypass Motion #5.*

**Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

- **Motion #3:** That the Administrator has the authority to pay invoices up to **\$10,000** which has been budgeted and processed by the appropriate department head under the procedures established by our auditors. At the monthly Committee of the Whole meeting a listing of all the accounts payables, amount of payroll and financial reports will be reviewed and recommended to the Council for approval. If the expenditure is greater than **\$10,000** or was not budgeted, the appropriate committee will submit their recommendation to Committee of the Whole for action. In the event that the expenditure is greater than **\$10,000** and is deemed emergent, the Administrator has the authority to pay such invoices and shall then report them to the Council.

Aldersperson Stock recommended the amount in Motion #3 be increased from \$3,000 to \$10,000. A higher amount allows the department heads to operate more efficiently and effectively. The budget will be watched closely, and Department Heads are required to have invoices that were not budgeted for be examined closely and approved where applicable and required.

**MOTION: Stock / Bake**

*Motion to increase the amount to \$10,000 and approve the updated Motion #3.*

**Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

- **Motion #5:** That the Oconto County Reporter be declared the Official Newspaper for the City of Oconto for publishing the council proceedings and for all other notices. The publisher is to continue providing a copy at no cost to the administrative officials that are now being furnished one.

Mayor Panetti asked the Council to bypass Motion #5. He would like to “interview” the options to find the best Official Newspaper for the City of Oconto, possibly switching if appropriate.

**Resolution designating public depositories and withdrawals for the City of Oconto:**

Associated Bank, Oconto, Wisconsin

Stephenson National Bank, Oconto, Wisconsin

Bank One Capital Corporation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

State Investment Pool, Madison, Wisconsin

**MOTION: Reed / Stock**

*Motion to approve the resolution as presented.*

**Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

**Nominations & Vote for Council President –**

Mayor Panetti opened the floor for nominations for Council President.

Wittkopf nominated Steve Stock.

Mehlberg seconded nomination for Steve Stock.

Bake nominated John Reed.

Mayor Panetti asked 3x if there were any other nominations, hearing none.

Anonymous paper voting revealed 1 vote for Reed, 5 votes for Stock. Steve Stock is elected Council President.

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Reed**

*Motion to approve Steve Stock for Council President.*

**Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

**Nominations & Vote for Council Vice President –**

Mayor Panetti opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice President.

Stock nominated Jean Feldt.

Mayor Panetti asked 3x if there were any other nominations, hearing none.

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock**

*Motion to approve Jean Feldt for Council Vice President.*

**Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

**Mayoral Recommendation for Committee/Commission Appointments/Reappointments –**

**Police & Fire Commission**

New Appointment: Bob LeBreck

**Technology Committee**

New Appointments: Patsy Bake, Alderperson; John Reed, Alderperson

Reappointments: Janine Hornblad; Scott Retzlaff

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

New Appointments: Scott Geller, Alternate Member; Kim Bronikowski, Alternate Member

**Board of Public Works**

New Appointments: Steve Stock, Alderperson; John Wittkopf, Alderperson; Jean Young

**Plan Commission**

New Appointment: Butch Mehlberg, Alderperson

**Industrial Development Commission**

New Appointments: Steve Stock, Alderperson; Mike Feldt

**Emergency Government**

New Appointments: John Wittkopf, Alderperson; John Reed, Alderperson

**Board of Review**

New Appointment: Nancy Gering Gralowski

Reappointment: Don Nerenhausen

**Parks & Recreation Committee**

Reappointment: Sue Andersen

**Tourism Committee**

New Appointments: Courtney Sowle; Wendy Spice; Tina Bruckner, Advisory Member(non-voting)

Reappointments: Ron Hayes; Susan Seidl, Alternate Member

**Harbor Commission**

New Appointments: Steve Stock, Alderperson; Paul Lucas, Advisory Member(non-voting)

**Farnsworth Public Library Board**

New Appointment: Patsy J. Bake, Alderperson

**Utility Commission**

New Appointment: Butch Mehlberg, Alderperson

**Forestry Committee**

Reappointments: Susan Seidl; Tom Sasse

**Ethics Board**

New Appointment: Butch Mehlberg, Alderperson

Reappointments: Cary Yudes; Marsha Present; Helen Weber

**Historical Preservation Committee**

New Appointments: Butch Mehlberg, Alderperson; Patsy J. Bake, Alderperson;  
Steve Stock, Alderperson; Steve Brazeau

**Oconto County Recycling**

Reappointments: Jeremy Wusterbarth

**Building Inspection Ad-Hoc Committee**

New Appointments: Steve Stock, Alderperson; John Wittkopf, Alderperson

Reappointment: Ron Daul

Recommendation from Attorney Calvert to bypass the Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments at this time as there is an open pending appeal going to a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Board has 30 days to render a decision.

**MOTION: Reed / Wittkopf**

*Motion to approve mayoral appointments as presented, bypassing Zoning Board of Appeals. Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED*

**Next Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting – Tuesday, May 3, 2022**

**Adjournment –**

**MOTION: Stock / Wittkopf**

*Motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm.*

**Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

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City Administrator Brittney M. Bickel