

CITY OF OCONTO
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

City Hall – Council Chambers
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022 - 6:00 PM

Draft for Approval

Public Hearing called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor John Panetti

Public Notice –

Petition for Nick Badendick for Conditional Use Permit for Parcels #265-28130151583H to allow for a dealership permit located at 150 N Katch Drive

Mayor Panetti asked 3 times for comment and input, hearing none.

MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg

Motion to close the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Meeting of the Regular Council called to order at 6:02 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 (arrived at 6:04 pm), and Robert LeBreck

Also present: Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Fire Chief Josh Bostedt, Board of Public Works Director Jeremy Wusterbarth, City Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and other interested parties

Excused: none

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Alderperson John Wittkopf

Approval of Agenda –

MOTION: Stock / Bake

Motion to approve the agenda as presented for the Council meeting on July 12, 2022.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes –

MOTION: Wittkopf / LeBreck

Motion to approve the minutes as presented for the Regular Council meeting on June 14, 2022 and the Special Council meeting on June 29, 2022.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence/Public Input –

- Jean Feldt spoke on behalf of resident Ryan Olson regarding the process of tree planting requests and possible better signage for the one-way street by the middle school. Board of Public Works Director Jeremy Wusterbarth explained the planting of trees is decided by himself and the Parks and Rec Director John Bostedt. They have a very limited amount in the budget for tree planting. If residents want to plant their own trees, Wusterbarth and Bostedt would need to approve the request. Wusterbarth added regarding the one-way signage, not much more can be done about that signage, other than flashing lights or maybe street painting.
- Steve Stock spoke on behalf of the Harbor Commission regarding the polls in the parking lot at the Harbor and possible bumpers or signage needing to go up. Wusterbarth would recommend putting up signage first and see if that solves the issue.
- Marly Thomson, 106 Robin Lane
- Dale Thomson, 106 Robin Lane, spoke in opposition of agenda item 12m.
- Mayor Panetti spoke regarding the possible use of the meeting room for a class reunion.
- Riley Sowle, 1240 McDonald St, spoke in favor of agenda item 12c.

Consent Agenda –

- a. Approval of Department Reports as Presented
- b. Approval of Accounts Payable for the Month of June 2022 in the Amount of \$276,910.78, Payroll for the Month of June 2022 in the Amount of \$263,455.08, and Other Financial Reports as Presented
- c. Approval of An Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Government and Administration Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto - Order of Business - 5-Minute Public Input Rule

MOTION: LeBreck / Feldt

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Closed Session –

Council voted at 6:22 p.m. to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(g) for the discussion on litigation for the following items:

- i. Bid for City Property
- ii. Discussion of Legal Matters

MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock

Motion to convene into closed session at 6:22 pm.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Roll Call: Mayor John Panetti, City Attorney Frank Calvert, City Administrator Brittney Bickel, Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Fire Chief Josh Bostedt, Board of Public Works Director Jeremy Wusterbarth, Butch Mehlberg, Steve Stock, John Wittkopf, Patsy Bake, Jean Feldt, Robert LeBreck, Bill Galik, and Julie Galik

Open Session –

Council voted to reconvene into Open Session at 6:42 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

MOTION: Wittkopf / Feldt

Motion to reconvene into open session at 6:42 pm.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: LeBreck / Wittkopf

Motion to accept offer for sale of city property - parcel #265-30181201545 & 265-30181341559. **Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion/Recommendation on –

- a. An Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Government and Administration Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto - Meetings of the Common Council - Third Tuesday of the Month

Administrator Bickel explained this could benefit us for two reasons. The first being, the first week of the month is often the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th. That does not allow much time to complete the bank rec and review the monthly statements before they are presented to the Council. If the meetings are moved back a week, it will ensure the reports the Council receives are accurate and received ahead of time for review. The second reason, it will ensure as many meetings as possible take place before the COW, or the Council at the least, so their recommendations can be addressed in the same month.

MOTION: Stock / Feldt

Motion to approve the ordinance as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 1 nay (Wittkopf) - MOTION CARRIED

- b. Approval of Application for Original Alcohol Beverage Retail License – Christine A. Reed – French Town Franks – 303 Brazeau Ave

MOTION: LeBreck / Feldt

Motion to approve the application as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- c. Approval of Application for Original Alcohol Beverage Retail License – Anita Jensen – Oconto Riviera, LLC – 1240 McDonald St

MOTION: Feldt / Mehlberg

Motion to Table the application.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- d. Allowing Golf Carts on Smith Ave & Brazeau Ave

MOTION: Wittkopf / Feldt

Motion to approve golf carts on Smith Ave & Brazeau Ave.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

e. Allowing Recreational Vehicles over the Walking Bridge

Wusterbarth expressed the importance of not allowing snowmobiles over the bridge. The studs will tear apart the bridge and create extra costs. Snowmobiles are also required to stay on snowmobile trails, and there are none leading up to the bridge. Wittkopf stated he believed recreational vehicles referred to golf carts, ATVs, UTVs, scooters, and minibikes, and he would amend his motion to clarify this. LeBreck felt it is a pedestrian bridge and should be utilized only by pedestrians. Wittkopf recommended a 5-mph limit, he feels there is room on the bridge for two vehicles to cross at the same time, and enough room for a vehicle and a pedestrian. Stock questioned if we should limit it to only golf carts. Chief Josh Bostedt added to Wusterbarth's concerns about the snowmobile studs, UTVs sometimes also utilize studs in the Winter months. LeBreck stated if golf carts and UTVs are allowed on almost every street in Oconto they would not need the convenience of the bridge, pedestrians, however, do. Wusterbarth added, now that golf carts are allowed on Smith and Brazeau, the convenience of the bridge is less necessary.

MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock

Motion to approve recreation vehicles over the walking bridge with the exception of snowmobiles. Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 3 ayes, 3 nays (Mehlberg, Feldt, LeBreck) - Mayor Panetti voted aye - MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation from Utility Commission and Board of Public Works:

- f. Approval of pay request #2 from Superior Sewer & Water for the reconstruction of Jones Ave in the amount of \$276,608.56

MOTION: Wittkopf / Feldt

Motion to approve the pay request as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation from Board of Public Works:

- g. Garbage bag proposal

Wusterbarth explained we are low on garbage bag inventory, we published and mailed out bid requests for the new stock. New to this request, we asked for rolls of 20 bags, rather than the usual 25 for large bags and 50 for small bags. Belson would only offer a bid on rolls of 50 and 25 at \$38,861.85. Unipak Corp bid for the rolls of 20 at \$31,690.80 (both bids include freight costs). Right now, we offer small bags in rolls of 10 or 50, and large bags in rolls of 5 or 25. We hire outside source to take the 50 and 25 bag rolls and bundle them into the 10 or 5 bag rolls costing around \$5500 to \$7500 a year. They sometimes can't keep up with the demand forcing seasonal workers or office staff to roll in any available time. Changing to rolls of 20, and only offering the option to purchase in rolls of 20, saves the City labor and money. During budget time we will also be looking at an increase in garbage bag costs. The City began using the garbage bags in 1994 and has not done a resident rate increase ever. Landfill costs have gone up from \$35 a ton to \$58 a ton, and the cost to purchase the bags has also gone up considerably.

MOTION: Feldt / Bake

Motion to approve the proposal as presented from Unipak Corp.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- h. Proposed parking solution on Park Ave / Main St - Tabled at Board of Public Works - BYPASSED
- i. Eliminate all-way stop at Pine Ave & Doran Ave - Denied at Board of Public Works - BYPASSED
- j. Amend no parking ordinance on Milledge Ave from Main St 114 feet North on Milledge to 30-minute parking zone from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday - Tabled at Board of Public Works - BYPASSED

Recommendation from Utility Commission:

- k. Approval of invoice from Crane Engineering for \$11,057.00 for repairs to equipment at the WWTP.

MOTION: Stock / Mehlberg

Motion to approve the invoice as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation from Plan Commission:

- l. Petition from Nick Badendick for Conditional Use Permit for Parcels #265-28130151583H to allow for a dealership permit located at 150 N Katch Drive

MOTION: LeBreck / Feldt

Motion to approve the CUP for Nick Badendick as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- m. Text Amendment(s) to the 20-Year Comprehensive Plan

MOTION: Feldt / Mehlberg

Motion to approve the text amendment as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment –

MOTION: Wittkopf / Feldt

Motion to adjourn at 7:18 pm.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

City Administrator Brittney M. Bickel