

CITY OF OCONTO
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

City Hall – Council Chambers
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022 - 6:00 PM

Draft for Approval

Meeting of the Regular Council called to order at 6:00 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 Robert LeBreck

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

Excused: none

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Alderperson Jean Feldt

Approval of Agenda –

MOTION: Stock / Wittkopf

Motion to approve the agenda as presented for the Council meeting on August 23, 2022.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes –

MOTION: Wittkopf / LeBreck

Motion to approve the minutes as presented for the Regular Council meeting on July 12, 2022 and the Special Council meeting on July 29, 2022.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence/Public Input –

- Local Government 101 Webinar Scheduling - Bickel reminded the Council and Mayor that the League of Wisconsin Municipalities is hosting a webinar for new and long-serving elected officials that is strongly suggested everyone attend. We have 12 months to watch the webinar and have the option for one or multiple nights. Alderperson Feldt stated she has taken it before, and it is extremely informative and would like to see everyone there.
- Jeremy Wusterbarth - The DOT has contributed an additional \$28,000 to the Arbutus Project 80/20 grant which will be taking place next year. The Oconto Marsh is cut 2-3 times a year by the City. Wusterbarth spoke with a representative regarding the rough shape the dyke is currently in. Ducks Unlimited will be working on repairing the Northwest, West, and Southwest areas. The project is going on right now and will be finished up by Fall.
- Mayor Panetti - The NERR has not been awarded to the City of Oconto.
- Dave Dreshek, 234 Frank St, spoke regarding the Oconto Pedestrian Bridge, in favor of allowing all ATVs and UTVs across.

- PJ Reed, 2373 Doran St, gave his 5 minutes to Dave Dreshek.
- Margaret Steier, 404 Madison St, gave her 5 minutes to Dave Dreshek.

Consent Agenda –

- Approval of Department Reports as Presented
- Approval of Accounts Payable for the Month of July 2022 in the Amount of \$464,384.66, Payroll for the Month of July 2022 in the Amount of \$173,216.89, and Other Financial Reports as Presented
- Approval of invoices from Midwest Meters Inc. in the amount of \$14,688.00 and \$194,400.00 for upgrades to water meters.
- Approval of Resolution that September 10th, 2022 is World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Oconto
- Approval of Certified Survey Map for Cody Nasgovitz located in the City of Oconto

MOTION: LeBreck / Wittkopf

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Discussion/Recommendation on –

- Allowing Recreational Vehicles over the Pedestrian Bridge

MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock

Motion to reopen allowing recreational vehicles over the pedestrian bridge.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock

Motion to approve allowing recreational vehicles over the pedestrian bridge with exception of snowmobiles or any studded vehicles.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- City of Oconto Official Newspaper

Attorney Frank Calvert stated according to Wisconsin State Statute 985, our only legal option for our official newspaper is the Oconto County Reporter. Our official newspaper is where we are required to publish legal notices and Council meeting minutes, if it is wanted by the Mayor or the Council to approach other newspapers in attempts to get them to publish more Oconto news articles, that is still an option. The Mayor suggested we appoint three people to go on an interview team to interview other newspapers, along with the school.

MOTION: Bake / Feldt

Motion to accept Oconto County Reporter as the Official Newspaper of the City of Oconto.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 2 ayes, 4 nays (Mehlberg, Stock, Wittkopf, LeBreck) - MOTION FAILED

- Termination of Probationary Alcohol Beverage Retail License - Gary Robert Graf - Gary's Corner Pub

Chief Rehberg spoke on the reasons for the termination. Administrator Bickel, Attorney Calvert, and Chief Rehberg met with Graf earlier in the week to discuss the

situation and inform him of the termination.

MOTION: Feldt / Bake

Motion to terminate the probationary license.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation from Board of Public Works:

- d. An Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Public Works Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto -- Driveways

MOTION: Feldt / Stock

Motion to approve the ordinance as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation from Plan Commission:

- e. Ordinance Sec 13-1-42(g)(4) - Variances: BYPASSED

Adjournment –

MOTION: LeBreck / Stock

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 pm.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Minutes respectively submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Bickel