

**CITY OF OCONTO**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 - 6:00 PM**

Draft for Approval

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on December 20, 2022, Pursuant to Notice Duly Given:**

**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 Bob LeBreck

Also present: Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Fire Chief John Bostedt, Firefighter/Local 2739 Firefighters Association President Cody Henry, City Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and other interested parties

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Alderperson John Wittkopf**

**Approval of Agenda –**

**MOTION: Stock / Wittkopf**

*Motion to approve the agenda as presented for the Council meeting on December 20, 2022.*

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

**Approval of Minutes –**

**MOTION: Mehlberg / Wittkopf**

*Motion to approve the minutes as presented for the Regular Council meeting on November 22, 2022. Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED*

**Correspondence/Public Input –**

- Jayme Sellen, Oconto County Economic Development Corporation, presented a PowerPoint on the Oconto County Tourism Zone/Room Tax
- Bickel addressed the rumors that were presented, in the name of transparency and educational purposes, stressing that the nature of social media is rumors and gossip, and this is the only time gossip will be put on the Agenda and discussed in the Council Chambers. Almost all City documents are open to Open Records Requests. Bickel explained the process and cost of an ORR. Which will also be posted on the City's website: cityofoconto.com. Bickel also explained there was an error when adding the Recycling Charges to some real estate tax bills. It effected approximately 30 apartments/duplexes. An additional \$40 was charged on top of their actual charge. A review of the list is underway, a check will be cut to correct those extra fees, and the owners will be notified. Bickel also explained that the Lottery & Gaming and First Dollar Credits are direct property tax relief from the State of Wisconsin and went over how to qualify and apply.
- Vickie Bostedt, 224 Third St, spoke in opposition of the cannon being moved and in opposition of the Harbor launching fees increase.

- Garrett Sowle, 712 McDonald St, asked questions regarding agenda item 8d and asked the Council to Table it.
- Dale Thomson, 106 Robin Ln, spoke in opposition of the Wedding Barn Venue (The Riviera) at 1240 McDonald St.
- Riley Sowle, 1240 McDonald St, owner of The Riviera, asked the Council to Table agenda item 8c.

#### **Consent Agenda –**

- a. Accounts Payable for the Month of November 2022 in the amount of \$174,968.37, Payroll for the Month of November 2022 in the amount of \$155,391.83, and Other Financial Reports as Presented
- b. Approval of Original Alcohol Beverage Retail License Application - Fire & Water, LLC - 805 Brazeau Ave and Approval of Agent - Marti Kai Bertapelle
- d. Approval of an Ordinance Regarding an Addition to the Health and Sanitation Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto

#### **MOTION: Feldt / LeBreck**

*Motion to approve the consent agenda items a, b, and d.*

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

Wittkopf asked to pull item c for further discussion.

- c. Approval of a Resolution Regarding Revisions to the City of Oconto Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Map and City of Oconto Land Use Zoning Map

#### **MOTION: Mehlberg / LeBreck**

*Motion to TABLE the consent agenda item c.*

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

#### **Discussion/Recommendation on –**

##### **Recommendation from Police & Fire Commission:**

- a. 2023-2025 Fire Department Union Contract  
Attorney Calvert, Bickel, and Union President Cody Henry went over the changes highlighted in red and answered questions.

#### **MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg**

*Motion to TABLE the contract until a Special Council meeting Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 4 ayes / 2 nays (Feldt and LeBreck) - MOTION CARRIED*

##### **Recommendation from Parks & Recreation Committee:**

- b. Recommendation to relocate the Cannon from City Park to the Oconto County Veteran's Memorial planned site

#### **MOTION: Wittkopf / Feldt**

*Motion to relocate the cannon.*

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

**Closed Session –**

Council voted at 7:30 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 for the following items:

- i. Bid for City Property

Roll Call: Mayor John Panetti, City Attorney Frank Calvert, City Administrator Brittney Bickel, Butch Mehlberg, Steve Stock, John Wittkopf, Patsy Bake, Jean Feldt, Bob LeBreck

**Open Session –**

Council voted to reconvene into Open Session at 8:03 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

**MOTION: Wittkopf / LeBreck**

*Motion to reconvene into open session at 8:03 pm.*

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

**MOTION: Stock / Feldt**

*Motion to contract a realtor to appraise and possibly sell property parcel #265-32200382050.* **Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

**Adjournment –**

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock**

*Motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm.* **Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectively submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Bickel