

CITY OF OCONTO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OCONTO UTILITY COMMISSION
City Hall – Council Chambers
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 - 5:30 PM

Draft for Approval

Minutes of the Meeting of the Oconto Utility Commission Held on April 24, 2023, Pursuant to Notice Duly Given:

Meeting of the Oconto Utility Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Brian Vandenlangenberg

Roll Call –

Members Present: Butch Mehlberg, Brian Vandenlangenberg, Earl Uhl, Steve VanCampenhout (via speaker-phone phone call)
Also present: Utility Manager Matt Beekman, Wastewater Operator in Charge Ben Thome, City Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and Jim Hornblad
Members Excused: Ron Filz

Nominations & Vote for Chairperson –

Vandenlangenberg opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.
Uhl nominated Brian Vandenlangenberg.
Vandenlangenberg asked 3x if there were any other nominations, hearing none.

MOTION: Uhl / VanCampenhout

Motion to approve Brian Vandenlangenberg for Chairperson.

Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Nominations & Vote for Vice Chairperson –

Vandenlangenberg opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson.
Mehlberg nominated Steve VanCampenhout.
Vandenlangenberg asked 3x if there were any other nominations, hearing none.

MOTION: Mehlberg / Uhl

Motion to approve Steve VanCampenhout for Vice Chairperson.

Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Agenda –

MOTION: Uhl / Mehlberg

Motion to approve the agenda as presented for the Oconto Utility Commission meeting on April 24, 2023. Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes –

MOTION: VanCampenhout / Mehlberg

Motion to approve the minutes as presented for the Oconto Utility Commission meeting on April 3, 2023. Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Public Input –

- Utility Manager Matt Beekman mentioned an issue that we became aware of today around 2:00 pm when they were doing locates for WPS to do electrical for The Yard. The pedestal/service box was installed in our Water Main Easement, approximately 6 feet off the property line of the Hornblads, the easement is 10 feet wide beginning at the property line. The Water Main was installed in 1995. We would have caught this sooner, but Diggers Hotline was never contacted before doing the work,

therefore a locate request was never put in. Vandenlangenberg asked when the utility service was placed there. Beekman responded it was installed by Scheffen Electric around March 30th he thinks, but he isn't sure on the exact date, it was over the weekend. We left a voicemail for Scheffen Electric as soon as we became aware of the issue. VanCampenhout stated to resolve the issue as soon as possible, before WPS hooks up the power, to avoid more difficult issues being created. The Commission agreed. VanCampenhout stated it will cost the property owner a lot more in the future if they need to move it because we need to dig up the Water Main.

- Wastewater Operator in Charge Ben Thome went over the details of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade that is coming up.

Correspondence –

- a. Electrical Costs: Nothing out of the ordinary. Looking good.
- b. WWTP Flows: Increase in flows for Leachate and Saputo Lagoon water.
- c. Septic Hauler Comparison: Warm February thaw caused some I&I. Ordinary and consistent.

Closed Session –

Commission voted at 6:15 p.m. to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) for the discussion on personnel matters for the following items:

- a. Utilities Personnel

MOTION: Mehlberg / VanCampenhout

Motion to convene into closed session at 6:15 pm.

Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Roll Call: Butch Mehlberg, Brian Vandenlangenberg, Earl Uhl, Steve VanCampenhout (via speaker-phone phone call), Utility Manager Matt Beekman (stepped out at 6:25pm - returned in open session), Ben Thome (stepped out at 6:25pm - returned in open session), and Administrator Brittney Bickel

Open Session –

Commission voted to reconvene into Open Session at 7:05 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

MOTION: Mehlberg / Uhl

Motion to reconvene into open session at 7:05 pm.

Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Uhl / Mehlberg

Motion to approve wage increases for Utility personnel and to keep Utility Manager as hourly for the remainder of the 2023 year. Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Accounts Payable from March 28th to April 18th, 2023 in the amount of \$126,031.62 –

MOTION: VanCampenhout / Uhl

Motion to approve the A/P as presented. Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Revenue & Expenditures Guidelines from 2023 –

Next Meeting Date & Time – Monday, May 8th, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

Adjournment –

MOTION: VanCampenhout / Mehlberg *Motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm.*

Voice Vote: 4 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Minutes submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Bickel