

**CITY OF OCONTO**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
City Hall – Council Chambers  
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 - 6:00 PM**

Draft for Approval

**Meeting 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, Riley Sowle, and Bob LeBreck

Also present: Police Chief Mike Rehberg, Superintendent of Public Works Ben Helnore, City Administrator Brittney Bickel and as recording secretary, and other interested parties

Excused: none

**Approval of Agenda –**

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock**

*Motion to approve the agenda for the COW meeting on June 13, 2023.*

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

**Correspondence –**

- A \$1,000 AARP WI Grant was obtained by OCEDC to place signage in the Oconto Marsh
- Mayor Panetti, heard there is interest in the hospital, no details at this time.
- Alderperson Riley Sowle read an email from Jim Welter, 1381 McDonald St, with a complaint of a speeding issue where it goes from 45 to 25 at the town/city limits.

**Public Input –**

- Mike Kelly, 515 Adams St, with a complaint regarding his neighbor.
- Eric Schanau, 3002 Windross Ln, Little Suamico, stated that the Nautical Bar is open for business.

**Discussion/Recommendation on –**

- a. **Department Reports:** written reports submitted and available upon request.
  - i. Police Report was handed out and presented by Police Chief Mike Rehberg
  - ii. Fire Report was handed out by Chief Josh Bostedt who was excused from the meeting
  - ii. Park & Recreation Report was handed out by Parks & Recreation Director John Bostedt who was excused from the meeting
  - iii. Public Works Report was presented by Superintendent of Public Works Ben Helnore
  - iv. Administrator Report/Financial Report/Budget Status Reports were delivered and presented by City Administrator Brittney Bickel

**MOTION: Bake / Sowle**

*Motion to approve A/P, payroll, & others as presented for May 2023.*

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

- b. Accounts Payable for the Month of May 2023 in the amount of \$304,416.14, Payroll for the Month of May 2023 in the amount of \$153,276.56, and Other Financial Reports as Presented

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock**

*Motion to approve A/P, payroll, & others as presented for May 2023.*

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

- c. Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Government and Administration Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto - Introduction of Ordinances (TABLED)

**MOTION: Sowle / Wittkopf**

*Motion to deny the ordinance as presented.*

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

- d. Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Government and Administration Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto - Wage and Personnel Committee

The Council had a long discussion on the 6d and 6e Ordinance Drafts as presented. They discussed the desired changes and want a new draft presented at next week's Council meeting.

**MOTION: Wittkopf / LeBreck**

*Motion to revise the drafts: 4 Alderpersons and the Mayor on the Finance Committee and 6 Alderpersons on the Wage & Personnel Committee, and both Committees will elect their own Chairperson. Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED*

- e. Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Revisions to the Government and Administration Ordinance in the Municipal Code of Ordinances for the City of Oconto - Finance Committee
- f. Approval for Temporary Class B Retailer's License from Paul Reed Jr for Escape Reality Walleye Tournament at Oconto Breakwater Park on July 15, 2023 - BYPASS

Attorney Calvert stated that Temporary Class B License applicants must be a Bona Fide Club, Church, Lodge/Society, Chamber of Commerce or Similar Civic or Trade Organization, Veteran's Organization, or Fair Association. It cannot be an individual.

**Recommendation from Oconto Utility Commission:**

- g. Approval of invoice from Robert E. Lee in the amount of \$26,350.57 for the WWTP Upgrades

**MOTION: Stock / Mehlberg**

*Motion to approve the invoice as presented.*

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

- h. Approval of invoice from WI DNR in the amount of \$7,096.60 for 2023 Environmental Fee

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Stock**

*Motion to approve the invoice as presented.*

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

- i. Approval of invoice from Midwest Meters in the amount of \$64,800.00 for Utility Meters

**MOTION: Mehlberg / Bake**

*Motion to approve the invoice as presented.*

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

- j. Approval of invoice from FSO in the amount of \$8,371.20 for Spring Sludge Hauling

**MOTION: Bake / Stock**

*Motion to approve the invoice as presented.*

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

**Closed Session –**

Committee voted at 6:41 p.m. to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) for the consideration of employment and compensation for the following items:

- i. Superintendent of Public Works

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg**

*Motion to convene into closed session at 6:41 pm.*

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

Roll Call: Mayor Panetti, City Attorney Frank Calvert, City Administrator Brittney Bickel, Board of Public Works Vice Chairperson Mike Feldt, Butch Mehlberg, Steve Stock, John Wittkopf, Patsy Bake, Riley Sowle, and Bob LeBreck

**Open Session –**

Committee voted to reconvene into Open Session at 6:55 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg**

*Motion to reconvene into open session at 6:55 pm.*

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

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Bake**

*Motion to refer the request to the Wage & Personnel Committee.*

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

**Adjournment –**

**MOTION: Wittkopf / Bake**

*Motion to adjourn at 6:57 pm. Voice Vote: 6 ayes - MOTION CARRIED*

Minutes submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Bickel