

CITY OF OCONTO
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
City Hall – Council Chambers
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 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, John Wittkopf, Patsy Bake, Riley Sowle, and Bob LeBreck
Also present: Police Captain Kassie Dufek, City Administrator Brittney Burrue (Bickel) and as recording secretary, and other interested parties
Excused: Steve Stock

Approval of Agenda –

MOTION: Wittkopf / Bake

Motion to approve the agenda for the COW meeting on August 8, 2023.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence –

- Alderperson Bob LeBreck spoke on a letter he received from State Senator Eric Wimberger on the state aid increase. He thanked the City Administrator, City Attorney, Department Heads, and City employees for great job on setting the budget and the hard work done sticking to the budget.
- Mayor spoke on a meeting with Tammy Baldwin and a meeting with Eric Wimberger regarding state aid increase, grants, and PFAS
- Administrator Burrue (Bickel) stated that we were required by the DNR to test for PFAS in ground water and private wells this year. A PFAS test was done on the City's ground water and private wells in June and all tests came back showing zero PFAS.
- Suzanne Hoffman, Director of Your Basic Needs, Inc., spoke on her plans for a homeless shelter at 1022 McDonald St

Public Input –

- Luann Stenstrup, 106 Holtwood Way, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Mike Pecor, 1034 McDonald St, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Darrell Anderson, 101 Merrill Ln, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Attorney Calvert explained R1 zoning permitted uses. A homeless shelter is not a listed permitted use in R1 zoning.
- Amber Sellen, 1017 McDonald St, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Mike Pecor, 1034 McDonald St
- Matt Vovilla, 910 McDonald St, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Dawn Delaruelle, 1101 McDonald St, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Teresa Boscarino, Director at Abundant Life Mission, Inc. homeless shelter in Marinette, WI, spoke on benefits of a homeless shelter
- Matt Vovilla, 910 McDonald St
- Cindy Westenberg, 2538 Fisher Ln, owner of Westy's Trucking in Oconto, spoke on the

- benefits of a homeless shelter
- Mike Kelly, 515 Adams St, spoke on the homeless shelter
- Venna Dreshek, 230 Frank St, spoke on the homeless shelter
- Shannon Osmon, 818 Park Ave, spoke on the benefits of a homeless shelter
- Kelly McDougal, 356 Jefferson St, Holy Trinity and St Vincent DePaul volunteer, spoke on the benefits of a homeless shelter
- Darrell Anderson, 101 Merrill Ln
- Teresa Boscarino, Director at Abundant Life Mission, Inc. homeless shelter in Marinette, WI
- Meg Stellmacher, 1193 McDonald St, spoke on concerns of the homeless shelter
- Rob Frazier, Associate Executive Director at St. John's facility, spoke on the benefits of a homeless shelter
- Craig Alwin, 110 Holtwood Way, spoke on the benefits of a homeless shelter
- Sarah Chinevere, 913 Fabry St, spoke on the homeless shelter
- Jack Karban, 361 Van Dyke St, spoke on a non-profit with the goal of bringing wiffle ball and baseball tournaments to the City of Oconto
- Cliff Martin, 328 Adams St,
- Lori Stenstrup, 609 Washington St
- Mayor John Panetti
- Jamie Younger, 518 Fourth St,
- Mayor John Panetti
- Staci Hickey, 604 Washington St,
- Jamie Younger, 518 Fourth St
- Mayor John Panetti
- Vickie Bostedt, 224 Third St
- Jack Karban, 361 Van Dyke St

Discussion/Recommendation on –

- a. **Department Reports:** written reports submitted are available upon request.
 - i. Police Report was handed out and presented by Captain Kassie Dufek.
 - 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 - Superintendent of Public Works Ben Helnore was excused from the meeting.
 - iv. Administrator Report: City Administrator Brittney Bickel handed out the financial reports - revenues and expenses are on track and predicted to meet budget.
- b. Accounts Payable for the Month of July 2023 in the amount of \$261,002.63, Payroll for the Month of July 2023 in the amount of \$179,001.92, and Other Financial Reports as Presented
MOTION: LeBreck / Mehlberg
Motion to approve A/P, payroll, & others as presented for July 2023.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED
- c. Approval of Mayoral Appointment of Riley Sowle to the Finance Committee
MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg
Motion to approve the appointment as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- d. Approval of Mayoral Appointment of John Wittkopf to the Finance Committee
MOTION: Bake / Sowle
Motion to approve the appointment as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED
- e. Approval of Mayoral Appointment of Butch Mehlberg to the Finance Committee
MOTION: Sowle / Wittkopf
Motion to approve the appointment as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED
- f. Approval of Mayoral Appointment of Patsy Bake to the Finance Committee
MOTION: Sowle / Mehlberg
Motion to approve the appointment as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED
- g. Approval of Mayoral Appointment of Dee Donlevy to the Finance Committee as a non-voting member
MOTION: Sowle / Wittkopf
Motion to approve the appointment as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 3 ayes, 1 nay (LeBreck), 1 abstain (Mehlberg) - MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation from Oconto Utility Commission:

- h. Approval of invoice from Midwest Meter Inc. in the amount of 64,800.00 for Utility Meters
MOTION: Wittkopf / Sowle
Motion to approve the invoice as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED
- i. Approval of invoice from Robert E. Lee in the amount of \$9,500.00 for WWTP Upgrades
MOTION: Mehlberg / Bake
Motion to approve the invoice as presented.
Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Closed Session –

Committee voted at 7:55 p.m. to convene into Closed Session pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(g) for the conferring with legal counsel and by Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) for the negotiating the purchasing of public properties for the following items:

- i. Zoning Violations at 116 Holtwood Way
- ii. Sowle Small Claims Action
- iii. Retzlaff/Bake Timber Trail - Discontinuance of a Public Way

MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg
Motion to convene into closed session at 7:55 pm.
Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Open Session –

Committee voted to reconvene into Open Session at 8:55 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 8:55 pm.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: LeBreck / Mehlberg

Motion to send out zoning violations notice giving 30 days to comply with city ordinances.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 4 ayes, 1 abstain (Sowle) - MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment –

MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg

Motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Voice Vote: 5 ayes **MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Burrue