

**MINUTES OF THE HARBOR COMMISSION**  
Wednesday November 29th, 2023 @ 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Chairman Jim Viestenz called the November meeting to order.
- 2.) Roll Call: Dick Olson, Nancy Rhode, Steve Stock, Todd Trepanier, Jim Viestenz, and non-voting member Paul Lukas **ALSO Present:** Mayor John Panetti, Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt, and Tourism Committee members Riley Sowle, Lynn Hearley, and Megan Holz
- 3.) **Rhode called approval of Agenda with the movement of 7. h.) to the 1st # 7. position; Stock issued a second. (5 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/25/2023 was placed by Olson with a Trepanier second. (5 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input: Lukas noted 2 issues: 1. Lower water and wind makes a boat leave the dock; 2. Ice access will be located on the north side the 1st week of ice fishing.
- 6.) Correspondence: Live Harbor Cam Views: (10/30 - 11/28) 3,851 views.
- 7.) **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
  - a.) *Grants for Dredging* were discussed by Director Bostedt with Tabby: she will look into grants available: Adm. Burruel will provide needed City information. Rhode added that OCEDC will continue looking for available funding.
  - b.) *Grant Writer*- Tabby has also stated that she will commit to it.
  - c.) *2023 Slip Rentals/ Payments*- Of the 2 missing, 1 full rental has been collected and the 2nd has ½ yet to come in.
  - d.) *2023 Seasonal Passes Sold @ North Shore Bait Company* the Last Month totaled \$635 in launch fees collected.
  - e.) *2024 Harbormasters* have responded that they are willing to extend 2024 work time starting earlier. They also thanked the Harbor Commission for their raise. We are in need of one new master for 2024. Mayor Panetti distributed an update of total out- of-state launch fees, noting that they were from 23 different states. (Handout)  
Discussion followed on the slip resistant docks with salt added; and restroom use: feces has been found on the property with the coming of the duck hunters: there **is** a port-a-potty available that should be used.
  - f.) **2024 Harbor Budget** has been approved by Council as presented.
  - g.) *2024 Slip Rentals* at this time have 4 potential seasonal and 41 rentals for 1 month or longer if the same boaters return.
  - h.) *Harbor Contribution/Donation to Waterfest 2024* was an addendum item. It was addressed by spectators Sowle, Hearley, and Holz. Members spoke on how the committee ended up supporting several City activities including Tunes on Tuesday, sponsorship of the Elks Flyin, OCEDC marketing, and Waterfest including fireworks that now have become dependent on the expended allowance... and more. Tourism cut funds that they could but remain with little to grow: seeking a working capital instead of just spending their dedicated budget. Mayor Panetti gave the history of Waterfest funding and operation. He also spoke of future funding through the airbnb rooming tax starting Jan. 1, 2024 which should be directed toward Tourism. Tourism requested the Council increase their budget but the funds only cover the cost increase of what the Tourism committee already covers. The Chamber does help to support Waterfest, however, Tourism has come to ask for some Harbor support, since it is on their grounds. Viestenz suggested they seek a donation... to try to secure funds from private

industry. With this in mind, **Rhode motioned that the Harbor Commission- as a matching grant - give Tourism contributions from the 2023 slip rentals and/or transient docking fees up to \$10,000 for every dollar Tourism collects and marks for Waterfest. Olson called second. (M/C)**

8.) Board Report:

a.) Marketing & Advertisement- Director Bostedt noted that articles for the campground and harbor have been submitted to the 2024 OCECD Oconto County Discovery Guide.

b.) City Boat Ramps- All are out and almost all dock checking completed.

c.) Fishing Tournaments/Special Events: Note an addition- WGAF ice fishing tournament (Feb.3rd ?) Commission members will receive the 2024 list in the new year.

d.) Park(s) Inspection Report [John Bostedt] All buoys have been removed with the 3 closest to Holtwood to be replaced. Also fencing is a task at hand.

**9.) Stock called motion for approval of Accounts Payable from October 20th, 2023 through November 15th, 2023 in the amount of \$3,971.23. Olson witnessed second. (M/C)**

Bostedt pointed out that there will be new phase 2 picnic tables, and apparel for the Harbor Masters.

10.) Revenue & Expenditure Guidelines from 2023 were reviewed and found acceptable.

11.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, Dec. 20th @ 4:30 p.m.

**12.) Olson summoned adjournment @ 5:40 p.m. Viestenz witnessed a second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl