

CITY OF OCONTO
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
City Hall – Council Chambers
1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Draft for Approval

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by Mayor John Panetti

Roll Call –

Present: Mayor John Panetti, City Attorney Frank Calvert, Alderpersons: Bob LeBreck, Butch Mehlberg, Riley Sowle, Steve Stock, and John Wittkopf
Also present: City Administrator Brittney Burrue also as recording secretary, and other interested parties
Excused: Patsy Bake

Approval of Agenda – LeBreck questioned the Mayor why Public Input was moved to the bottom of the agenda and quoted the order of the Committee of the Whole agenda from City Ordinance Sec. 2-2-5(h)(3). There was discussion on the issue.

MOTION: LeBreck / Stock

Motion to move Public Input to Agenda Item #5.

Voice Vote: 3 ayes, 2 nays (Sowle / Wittkopf) - **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: Stock / Mehlberg

Motion to approve the agenda for the COW meeting on January 9, 2024, as amended.

Voice Vote: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Sowle) - **MOTION CARRIED**

Correspondence –

- Alderperson Stock asked if we were looking into adding a Referendum to increase the number of Alderpersons from 6 to 8. Attorney Calvert stated, yes, we are.
- Alderperson Mehlberg questioned if we had a City Ordinance regarding Alderperson pay and an attendance requirement. Attorney Calvert stated we currently do not have an attendance requirement in place.

Public Input – none

Discussion/Recommendation on –

- a. **Department Reports:** written reports submitted are available upon request.
- i. Police Report was handed out by Captain Dufek, who was excused from the meeting.
 - 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: City Administrator Brittney Burrue stated that Jeremy Wusterbarth, our Superintendent of Public Works, started on Monday, January 8th. He planned to attend this meeting, although he was currently out helping the Street Department with snow removal from the snowstorm as the Department is short-staffed. One employee is out, and the Street Foreman resigned as of January 4th, he got a job in his hometown of Lena where he currently lives, so we are happy for him in his career advancement.
 - iv. Administrator Report: City Administrator Brittney Burrue stated the auditors were in

January 4th and 5th for the interim audit. They will be back in the week of March 11-15th for the final audit. She also touched on the finances, almost every Fund, including the General Fund, is in a surplus at the end of 2023.

MOTION: Sowle / Wittkopf

Motion to approve the department reports as presented.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

- b. Approval of Application for Temporary Class B Retailer's License from Oconto Copperfest Committee for Oconto Copperfest on June 6th – 10th, 2024. – **BYPASSED**. The dates were questioned, as the application had two different date ranges displayed. Burrue! stated she would clarify the correct dates with the Copperfest Committee.

Recommendation from Finance Committee:

- c. Approval of Accounts Payable Accounts Payable for the Month of December 2023 in the amount of \$514,337.31, Payroll for the Month of December 2023 in the amount of \$157,215.93, and Other Financial Reports as Presented

MOTION: Stock / Mehlberg

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

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Closed Session –

Committee voted at 6:29 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 for the following items:

- i. Sowle – Notice of Injury and Claim

MOTION: Wittkopf / LeBreck

Motion to convene into closed session at 6:29 pm.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

Roll Call: Mayor Panetti, Attorney Calvert, City Administrator Burrue! , Bob LeBreck, Butch Mehlberg, Riley Sowle, Steve Stock, and John Wittkopf

Open Session –

Committee voted to reconvene into Open Session at 6:45 p.m. pursuant to notice duly given and as allowed by Wis. Stat. 19.85(2) for discussion/recommendation from Closed Session.

MOTION: Stock / Mehlberg

Motion to reconvene into open session at 6:45 pm.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes - MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: LeBreck / Mehlberg

Motion to deny claim from the Sowles.

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

Adjournment –

MOTION: Wittkopf / Mehlberg

Motion to adjourn at 6:47 pm.

Voice Vote: 5 ayes MOTION CARRIED

Minutes submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Burrue!