

Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of the City of Chetek held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. , held at Chetek Community Center, 711 First Street, Chetek, WI and through Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Jeff Martin.

Present: Jeff Martin, Mark Edwards, Scott Bachowski, Terry Hight (via zoom), Earl Grover

Council members were given an overview of the wastewater treatment plant options with Jon Strand and Tia McCarthy with CBS Squared. The three best (3) options for the tertiary treatment portion would be 1) cloth media filtration, 2) reactive sand filtration, 3) advanced biological nutrient recovery system.

The plans and specification development agreement needs to be completed by March 31, 2022 and construction completed by 3/31/2024. Council discussed the benefits and cost of each option.

Motion by Hight, 2nd by Bachowski, to approve the reactive sand filtration system based on the lower cost of the plant, lower cost of chemicals and favorable results with the type of system. Carried.

Sean Lentz with Ehlers Public Finance Advisors presented refinance options for the 2018 pension debt along with new debt for the purchase of refuse trucks. The remaining debt on the pension is approximately \$700,000. The note is currently with Sterling Bank on a note at 3.98% interest with a balloon payment due in 2028. Ehlers would solicit competitive bids for the purchase of the Notes from underwriters and banks. The new debt payments would not exceed current debt payments and the debt would be scheduled to be paid off in full within ten years. Carmen Newman talked to two local banks regarding refinancing the debt. Council is interested in having Ehlers send out requests for proposals to regional banks and have the responses for the council meeting on April 13th, 2021. Motion by Bachowski, 2nd by Grover to have Ehlers send RFPs on the debt refinancing. Carried.

Council discussed applying for a Community Development Block Grant for the water tower instead of the wastewater treatment plant. A community may only apply once every two years and the award is up to one million. If the city were to be awarded a CDBG grant for the treatment plant then any financing through Rural Development would be reduced by that grant. It would be more advantageous to apply for the water tower.

Motion to adjourn by Hight, 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer