

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.** in the council room, 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI and virtual through Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Martin.

Council members in attendance: Scott Bachowski, Earl Grover, Terry Hight, Mark Edwards, Mayor Martin

Public comment: Jan Sobus expressed concern regarding people not following the decisions given by the board of appeals members. They will be meeting on an issue regarding property owned by Howes where a structure was altered without a permit or variance.

Joe Atwood, building/zoning administrator, stated he issued 51 building permits with a valuation total of approximately \$3,000,000.

Mayor Martin announced the closed session later in meeting – Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(f) considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations (discuss ordinance violation and possible citation), and **Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session** (lease agreement and fee for industrial park), reconvene; act on closed session item.

Motion to approve agenda - Bachowski motioned to approve the agenda with the revision of separating item 2 (wage increase) into two separate items with the community center as item 2A. 2nd by Hight. carried.

CONSENT AGENDA - Council minutes from November & November claims; Department/Board reports as submitted: Budget committee November 3rd; Plan Commission November; Housing Authority October; Ambulance October; Fire District December -motion to approve by Hight, 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Lease agreement for business in south industrial park - Tyler Schultz (All World Services) would like to start leasing a one acre parcel in the south industrial park for his recycling/sorting business. He would possibly be interested in purchasing up to four acres if the business does well after the initial year. He was interested in a rent to own option in the lease. Hight stated he would not be in favor of the rent to own option since there would be no capital improvements to generate tax revenue.

Bachowski motioned to approve a 3% wage increase for public works, city hall, and police non-union employees effective January 1, 2022. 2nd by Edwards. Carried.

Motion by Hight to approve a 3% wage increase for the community center director. Hight-yes, Grover-yes, Edwards-yes. Carried. Bachowski abstained.

Bachowski motioned to approve the appointment of election officials for the 2022 through 2023 term. 2nd by Grover. carried.

Attorney Randi Osberg (Ruder Ware law firm) will be retiring in January 2022. Council discussed requesting proposals for legal services. Council members decided to continue services with Ruder Ware law firm and wait on request for proposals until sometime in the future since they are working with us on the Rural Development - wastewater treatment project and the project will take more than a year to complete.

Motion by Hight, 2nd by Edwards to write off accounts receivable interest and bad debt in the amount of \$203.52. carried.

Motion by Grover, 2nd by Bachowski to approve Resolution 2021-27, 2021-28, and 2021-29 - adjusting 2021 budget. carried.

Bachowski motioned to approve capital outlay expenditures as recommended by the budget committee to include the replacement of windows at the police station, furnace/air conditioning in the courtroom, flooring at city hall and public works, painting at public works, rip-rap at shoreline for public dock areas, and roof replacement for the community center. 2nd by Grover. carried.

Council members discussed airport hangar violations and how to handle enforcement. The ordinances and lease agreements need to be reviewed so there isn't conflicting language and inspections need to be completed. Council will set up a meeting with the city attorney later in 2022.

Hight motioned to give the city employees a holiday gift in the amount of \$50.00 - 2nd by Grover. Hight-yes, Grover-yes, Edwards-yes. Carried. Bachowski abstained.

Police chief, Ron Ambrozaitis, advised council members that it is getting difficult to hire and staff part-time officers. He would like the council to consider allowing for a utility officer at 36 hours per week instead of two part-time employees. This would essentially be a full-time position with benefits. The increase in the wage and benefit budget is approximately \$5,000 for 2022 with some of the benefit cost reduced due to employees waiving the insurance coverage with the city and taking their spouse's insurance plan. There would also be some additional cost for training hours. This position would essentially be covering the weekend shifts. Council asked if he felt this could become a burden for the new officer and what would that mean down the road if this option doesn't work. Carmen Newman also advised that they need to consider that any of the employees have the option to enroll in the city's insurance at a later date and some of the employees may choose the family plan which will increase the budget. There may be savings now but we need to be prepared for future costs.

Bachowski motioned to approve Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. for the sequencing batch reactor and Nexom US, Inc. for the continuous backwash sand filter system for the new wastewater treatment plant. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Grover motioned to approve Resolution 2021-30 authorizing a cost share grant from the Wisconsin DNR for upgrading boat landing. 2nd by Edwards. carried.

Hight motioned to approve the contract with CBS Squared for administering the DNR boat landing grant. 2nd by Edwards. carried.

Hight motioned to go into closed session as noted above, reconvene; act on closed session item, if any. 2nd by Grover. carried. Motion to go into open session - Grover, 2nd by Bachowski. carried.

Motion by Hight to approve a one year lease for one acre in the south industrial park for All World Services (Tyler Schultz) with the monthly rent set at \$250.00 effective March 1, 2022. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Zoning violation determination - Dave & Brenda Howes, 1721 Pinewood, hired a contractor to replace shingles, siding and added on a porch. A building permit for the \$30,000 project was not acquired. When questioned whether he has applied for building permits in the past, he said he had but that the contractor said they didn't need a permit. Joe Atwood stopped when it was discovered they didn't have a permit for the project. He also advised that the porch doesn't meet the front yard setback requirements and, therefore; a variance would be required from the Board of Appeals. According to the ordinance, the notice of violation must be given to the property owner and also the common council prior to action taken. Council members felt that since he has been a city resident for many years and has been aware that building permits are required for construction that he should be responsible for contacting the city regardless of what the contractor advised. Motion by Hight to issue a citation in the amount of \$1,000 for violating the zoning ordinances, 2nd by Bachowski. carried.

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