

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 in the council room, 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI. Also posted live on the City Facebook page

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

Members in attendance: Mayor Martin, Scott Bachowski, Earl Grover, Terry Hight, Thea Hempel

Mayor Martin announced that it is National Law Enforcement appreciation day/week. He read a proclamation thanking our law enforcement officers for their service.

Tia McCarthy, project engineer with CBS Squared, Inc., spoke to the council via phone to give an update on the Chetek Wastewater Treatment Facility. The pre-bid meetings have taken place, USDA-RD has provided closing instructions, bid opening to take place January 19th; USDA-RD standard is for all easements to be in hand prior to project award; Not all easements are in hand for force main to run from existing plant to new plant, longest lead time item is related to railroad; dates have been built into contract to allow for easement finalization; there is a potential risk that if the easements acquisition can't occur City would be at risk of losing the force main portion of the overall funding. Tia offered to attend a follow up meeting if the council had any concerns. Council members did not request a follow-up at this time.

Grover motioned to approve the agenda. 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Hempel motioned to approve the consent agenda items: city claims and minutes from December; Library minutes-November; Fire District minutes-December. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Council members discussed the park committee's request to continue with the design for a sports complex at Gotham Park. The committee would like to have Rettler Corporation provide a design layout to determine what will fit in the Gotham Park area. The cost would be approximately \$3,800. Hempel questioned spending money on a layout that may or may not include what the community actually wants in the park. Hempel and Hight both stated they would like to have a joint meeting with the parks committee and economic development committee to collaborate on the design and make sure we are not having to pay additional fees for revising design layouts. Donna Bachowski spoke via phone and explained that the parks committee has met numerous times and no one else shows up for the meetings. The committee would like to move forward with the design phase. Motion by Hempel to approve the hiring of Rettler Corporation for a design plan as long as the process is closely managed. 2nd by Bachowski. Hempel-yes, Bachowski-yes, Grover-yes, Hight-No. Carried.

Mayor Martin and Carmen Newman met with McGrath Consulting to discuss the preliminary results of the wage study. It appears that approximately 60% of the employees wages are within the average wage range with 40% below the average wage range. McGrath will work on compiling the details into a report for council. The report will provide a wage range for each position with some proposed wage steps. Council will meet with McGrath when the report is finalized to review the results which should be available in a few weeks.

Hight motioned to approve the purchase of a software subscription from ArchiveSocial in the amount of \$3,588 (annual). The software will provide compliance with Wisconsin Public Records for our social media sites as it archives all posted content so any deleted content can be retrieved, if needed. 2nd by Hempel. Carried.

Council discussed the future use of the current wastewater treatment plant site. Once the new plant is operating, the building and equipment at the current site will be removed. If the site would be used for any type of commercial or residential use the excavation will need to go down approximately 8 feet. If we plan to use the site for a park area then the excavating would only go down to approximately 4 feet. The council is thinking the best use may be for some type of park/conservancy area. The area is used quite frequently for fishing and it would be beneficial to provide more area for parking as well.

Bachowski motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Hight, carried.

Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer