

Minutes of the City of Chetek Special Common Council Meeting held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., 220 Stout Street, Chetek, WI.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Martin at 5:00 p.m.

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

Other in attendance:

Brian Roemer, Ehlers Public Finance Advisors (virtual); Tia McCarthy, CBS engineer

Brian Roemer presented to the council the long-range cash flow analysis for the water utility. The analysis looked at the ten year improvements plans, utility rates, and associated debt. The major improvement at this time is the proposed water tower. The analysis assumes half of the project cost being paid by TID increment. The analysis looks at the historical rate of performance and future projections including future debt and inflation. The analysis also looks at the impact on the residential utility bill. The analysis does not factor in any grant or principle forgiveness for the water tower project as that has not yet been determined.

Council members were advised that while a full rate review with the Public Service commission may not be warranted, a simple rate case application should be done this year to keep increases more even versus larger increases in the future. The PSC will not consider the cost of the water tower project until we are closer to that time, so any increase at this time will be not reflective of those future costs.

Tia McCarthy advised the council of the options for funding the overrun on the wastewater treatment plant. At this time, we are still waiting on a decision from Rural Development on whether or not they will require BABA regulations to be followed (build american-buy american). This could increase the cost on the project due to being limited on which vendors we can purchase equipment from. The other option would be to borrow the money through the DNR Clean Water Fund. This option would require the wages for contractors to use the "Davis-Bacon wage rates" determined by the State. Market and Johnson gave an estimate of increase for meeting those wage rates at \$500,000. The loan program through the DNR may offer some principal forgiveness - possibly up to \$3 million. There may be a greater chance of receiving some principal forgiveness versus any more grant money from Rural Development.

Grover motioned to authorize the application for funding with the DNR Clean Water Fund and approve the contract revision with Market and Johnson for the wastewater treatment plant. 2nd by Bachowski. Grover-yes, Bachowski-yes, Hight-yes, Hempel-yes. Carried.

Key Equipment Company, Inc. d/b/a - Culpepper/Merriweather Circus requested to have the extra liability insurance requirement waived for their Circus application for July 2023. Ordinance requires \$3,000,000 for transient entertainment but they would like to provide \$2,000,000. Thea motioned to approve their request. 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Motion to adjourn - Bachowski/Grover. Carried.

Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer