

Minutes of the City of Chetek regular Common Council Meeting and organizational meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 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

Absent: Thea Hempel

Mayor Martin announced a closed session later in meeting – Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility & 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 - discuss purchasing of public property, 2023 wage study & employee wages, and status of negotiations on payoff of 2021 employee medical bills, reconvene; act on closed session items.

Motion to approve agenda - Bachowski/Hight. Carried.

Motion to elect Scott Bachowski as council president - Grover/Hight - carried.

Motion by Hight/Grover to confirm mayor's appointments of municipal officers, boards, committees for the ensuing year: budget committee - Jeff Martin, Carmen Newman, Brandy Johnson, Thea Hempel, Scott Bachowski; grievance committee - Jeff Martin, Earl Grover, Scott Bachowski; fire district board - Earl Grover; joint ambulance service commission - Terry Hight; park committee - Earl Grover, Mark Etten, Donna Bachowski, Sam Rost, Jim Metcalf, Joe Atwood, Paul Poppe, Austin Chamberlain; personnel committee - Jeff Martin, Terry Hight, Scott Bachowski; utility committee - Earl Grover, Terry Hight; street committee - Scott Bachowski, Thea Hempel; Barron county economic development representative - Jim Metcalf; plan commission - John Hunsinger, Del Wacker; board of appeals - Shawn Ayers, Mark Etten, Library board - Jean Wacker; economic development committee - Thea Hempel, Jennifer Blatz, Jessica Clark, Travis Turner, Dan Knapp, Sr., Alex Swanson, Rick Meskers. Carried.

Motion to approve the consent agenda items: city claims and minutes from March; Accept and place on file committee minutes: Fire District-January & March; Economic Development - March; Housing Authority-January. Accept resignation of Jack Harrison, municipal judge effective May 31, 2023. Hight/Grover - carried.

Ordinance 788A - detaching territory from City of Chetek (parcel 211-8044-17-000). Petitioner, Theesfeld indicated they do not receive any services from the city and would like to use their property for agricultural use. Access to their property is through the town of Prairie Lake since highway 53 cuts off access from the city limits. Motion to approve - Bachowski/Hight. Carried.

Council discussed the proposed water tower replacement which will be needed in order to proceed with the housing development on the 39 acre parcel on Knapp Street. The project will be financed through the water utility rates, tax increment from the new housing development, and possible principle forgiveness through the DNR safe drinking water loan program. Motion to approve to proceed with the project - Bachowski/Grover. Carried.

Resolution 2023-5 - declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing through the State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund for State Fiscal Year 2024, water tower and well pump projects. Motion to approve Grover/Bachowski. Carried.

A revised article of agreement for the fire district was prepared by city attorney Paul Mahler. Hight motioned to approve the Articles of Agreement contingent on the Town of Chetek board approving the same. Grover seconded. Carried.

Donna Bachowski proposed for her and another employee to clean the community center as she no longer has a contract with a cleaning service. She is proposing to be paid for 2 hours per week @ \$25.00 per hour and Coletta Peterson for one hour per week @ \$15.00 per hour. Motion to approve: Grover/Hight. Bachowski abstained. Carried.

Nicolet Bank requested to install a community library at the Main Street park. Council members decided it wouldn't be a good idea to place anything else at the park at this time as other requests have been denied due to the small space available.

Bachowski motioned to approve the hiring of attorney Randi Osberg or Paul Mahler to assist with a development agreement for the housing development project. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Motion to go into closed session: Grover/Hight. Carried.
Motion to go back into open session: Grover/Bachowski. Carried.

Grover motioned to authorize the mayor to negotiate the purchase of vacant land as discussed in closed session. 2nd by Hight. Carried.

Hight motioned to approve the final wage study prepared and submitted by McGrath Consulting and implement 2023 employee wage adjustments retroactive to March 1, 2023. 2nd by Grover. Bachowski abstained. Carried.

Motion to adjourn - Grover/Bachowski. Carried.

Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer