

**Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 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 6:15 p.m. following the budget hearing.  
Members in attendance: Mayor Martin, Scott Bachowski, Earl Grover, Terry Hight, Thea Hempel

Public comments: Police chief, Ron Ambrozaitis, addressed the council regarding the sponsorship of Ryan Cullen in the academy. Several individuals addressed the council regarding their interest in having the city pursue park improvements to include a pickleball court.

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

Hight motioned to approve the consent agenda items - city claims and minutes from October; accept and place on file committee minutes: Housing Authority-September; Ambulance commission-October; Parks-October; Fire District-September & October; Street committee-October; Community center-November. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

**Old Business:**

A proposal was received from Northwest Builders, Inc. for repairs to the front entrance of city hall. The cement block has become unstable due to freezing and thawing, the block overhang has become unstable. Minor repairs were made about a year ago but those repairs did not alleviate the situation. Their proposal includes removal of the block that extends out on the front of the building and replacing that with new metal stud framing, installation of new sheathing and an architectural metal wall panel. Additional proposals were not received, although the city requested other proposals. Hight motioned to approve the proposal in the amount of \$25,800. 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

**New Business:**

Change order #4 on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project includes a sand filter grating credit, precast caulking credit adjustment, and switching the generator for the main lift station from diesel to natural gas. Total cost adjustment of (3,203.47). Motion to approve by Hight, 2nd by Hempel. Carried.

Joe Atwood addressed the council regarding the building permit information for 2023 to date. Permits included six new homes, one shop, one large addition with a total of approximately \$3,000,000 in valuation.

Council discussed the invoice from the Chetek Villas for the repairs to their irrigation system. The system was damaged when the sidewalk contractor was replacing the sidewalk on 1st Street. Irrigation systems are not allowed to be placed in the city's right of way. A diggers ticket would not have located the irrigation system since it is a private system and a permit would not have been issued. Council did not make a motion to pay for the repairs.

Hempel motioned to approve hangar land lease agreements for Shawn Jennings #20 and Chris Owens #22. Both hangars owners have airplanes that will be housed in the hangars and will provide liability insurance indemnifying the city of Chetek. 2nd by Grover.

Resolution 2023.14 - Bachowski motioned to approve 2023 budget adjustments. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Resolution 2023.15- assigning fund balance to outlay accounts. Council members debated on whether to allocate \$75,000 to the parks for improvements at Gotham Park. Grover and Hight prefer to move the funds to an "infrastructure" account. Bachowski & Hempel stated that the funds could be allocated to the parks account and the funds could be used if/when final park plans are approved and fund raising is achieved to help with completion of the project. Bachowski stated he would like \$12,000 going to a "law enforcement sponsorship" account. Bachowski motioned to approve the allocations with \$75,000 going into "parks outlay" and \$12,000 going into "law enforcement sponsorship". 2nd by Hempel. Roll call vote: Bachowski-yes, Grover-no, Hight-no, Hempel-yes. Mayor Martin broke the tie with a yes vote. Carried.

Resolution 2023.16 - council/mayor wages. No motion.

Resolution 2023.17 - adoption of the 2024 budget. Council members discussed the outlay account appropriations. Bachowski did not want to allocate \$20,000 to the airport outlay account because he feels that they should wait until it is determined whether or not they can get into the federal airport system. Council members agreed to move the \$20,000 to an "infrastructure" account, \$40,000 to public works equipment/vehicles, \$5,669 to "future cemetery expense", and \$155,000 to street improvements. Hight motioned to approve with the changes in the outlay accounts, 2nd by Grover. Roll call vote: Bachowski-yes, Grover-yes, Hight-yes, Hempel-yes. Carried.

Bachowski motioned to approve the hiring of a "treasurer/administrator" as recommended by the personnel committee to replace Carmen Newman upon her retirement December 29, 2023. The candidate's name will be announced after Wednesday when they have notified their current employer. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Hight motioned to approve the appointment of Mark Eby as "clerk" to replace Carmen Newman. 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Grover motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Hight. Carried.

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Carmen Newman, clerk/treasurer