

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, December 12, 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

Public comments: Brent Bohn- Barron County Waste to Energy Plant Director gave an update on the recycling program as the recycling area is no longer manned and is open to the public 24/7. Brent also said that should there be any issues to give him a call and that also if there is extra littering at the location that Barron would take care of it so the taxpayers incur no expense. Mike Reid also gave an overview on the city and residents need to help look and come up with after school activities.

Hight made a motion to approve the agenda with moving item m to item a. 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Hempel motioned to approve the consent agenda items - city claims and minutes from November; accept and place on file committee minutes: Ambulance commission-November; Fire District-November; Planning Commission-October; and Budget Hearing-November 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Accept bid for topo map survey for Gotham Park. Mark Etten spoke on this item and said that the parks committee has met and got some bids for the topo map survey. The bid that they would like to recommend to council would be from CBS Squared in the amount of \$1500.00. Mark Etten also said that after this topo map survey that they would finally be able to get some hard numbers so they know what they would be looking at to start fundraising. Hempel asked where the funds would be coming from and the funds would be coming from their fundraising this summer from donkey ball. Bachowski made a motion to accept the bid from CBS Squared for \$1500.00 and use the funds to pay that bill from their fundraising from this past summer. 2nd by Grover motion carried.

Change order #5 is postponed till the January Council Meeting.

Resolution 2023-18 appropriate receipted revenue for the library. Hempel motioned to approve resolution 2023-18 2nd by Grover motion carried.

Resolution 2023-19 Authorizing the issuance and sale of \$10,352,000 sewerage system mortgage revenue bonds of the City of Chetek, Barron County, Wisconsin, and providing for the payment of the bonds and other details with respect to the bonds. This is the approval of the bond for the WWTP from Rural Development. Hight motioned to approve the issuance of bond Bachowski 2nd motion. Carried

Resolution 2023-20 Authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness of the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and or extending its Wastewater Treatment facility-\$9,000,000 - Hempel motioned to approve resolution 2023-20 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

Resolution 2023-21 Authorizing and providing for the incurrence of indebtedness of the purpose of providing a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, enlarging, improving, and or extending its Wastewater Treatment facility-\$1,352,000 - Hight motioned to approve resolution 2023-21 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Resolution 2023-22 sewer utility rate increase effective 9/1/2024. This is the 3rd in a series of sewer rate increases that started back in 2022. Hempel motioned to approve resolution 2023-22 2nd by Bachowski. Carried

Approve hiring of new police officer Connor Haukom. Chief said that him and personnel met about 2 weeks ago and did an interview with Mr. Haukom. He would be a full time officer and is graduating from the academy December 15,2023. Would be starting with the City on Monday December 18th,2023.

Connor said that he was excited and looking forward to working with the City. Hight made a motion to approve the hiring of Connor Haukom 2nd by grover. Carried

Approve outside employment- Laura Stelzner, Laura said that she works part time at Old Abe's Supper Club. She was working 3 days but since taking her new position she has already cut back her time there. She is also still in a contract with her old employer till June 30th, 2024 working approx at most 10 hours a week outside of her hours here at City Hall so either job does not have any effect on her work here. Once her contract expires she will be done with that company. Bachowski made a motion to allow Laura outside employment. 2nd by Grover motion carried with Hempel voting no.

Chamber of Commerce request to construct storage facility at Gotham Park. Lois Klay, president of the Chetek Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke on how they would like to build a permanent storage facility for all of their belongings. Over the years they have gone from building to building and most recently had a 2 week notice from Mosaic to vacate that building. They then moved their stuff to The Mill area where recently there was a fire and now they have lost everything. They are still working with insurance on that. They have been talking with Joe Atwood and Dan Knapp about the best area for their building and have come up with an area at Gotham Park next to the dog park. They are asking the city for the ok as there is currently a grant that they can apply for but need to have it submitted by the end of January 2024. Hempel said that this is a great idea and loves it. Bachowski had no issue with where Joe and Dan picked out. Hight said this is a better location than the previous one that they had been looking at. Hempel made a motion to approve the Chetek Area Chamber of Commerce to construct a building in Gotham Park next to the dog area. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Vintage Voyagers request to use the North end of the airport for the annual car show during Liberty Fest weekend. Bachowski motion to approve Vintage Voyagers request 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Request from Barron County to allow county board members to be paid from county funds to attend library board meetings. Director of the library said that because of the funding that comes from the county they are looking for an ok from the City council to pay their board member to attend our library board meetings. Mark did reach out to Jeff French at the county and this is more of a state statute that has to be followed. Hight made a motion to allow the county to pay their library board member a pier diem. 2nd by Grover Carried. Bachowski abstained from this vote.

Discussion regarding non-emergency contact for Community Center rentals. Director Bachowski of the community center discussed what the issue was and it was discussed that this item needs to be brought back to the Community Center Board for discussion before being brought to the council.

Appointment of 2024 Election Inspectors Hight made a motion to accept the list of appointments for the 2024 Election Inspectors. 2nd by Bachowski Carried.

Discuss possible referendum for 2024. Mark discussed that at a previous budget meeting it was discussed that a possible referendum would need to be looked at in order to help maintain our 24/7 policing for the City. There were also talks on a separate referendum to let the city taxpayers decide if they would like to continue with the Gotham Park buildout or not. At this time the Gotham Park referendum will not be worked on. The council did want to work on the referendum for the continuation to help maintain the 24/7 policing and public safety. Mark said that he and Laura will work on putting some numbers together and wording for the January resolution that will need to be done and email to council to get input so come January we are all ready with the resolution to make sure the referendum is on the April 2024 ballot.

Hempel motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.