

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Monday, August 12, 2024 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: Marge Jost contacted the County Hwy commissioner about our traffic. Jeannie Anderson and Cathy Arneson talked in regards to the Gotham Park Sports Complex to give the council an update as to what has been going on and happening. They now have their donor sheets to print and also their brochure. They also have about 230 different names for possible sponsors. They also will have a nice metal side out there at Gotham Park.

Hempel made a motion to approve the agenda. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

Council minutes and city claims: July Council,
Department/Board reports as submitted - Joint Fire & Ambulance-June, Chetek Ambulance July, Chetek Fire Dist-July, Planning Commission-July, Airport-July
Resignations and/or appointments from boards/committees: Resignation of Donna Bachowski Parks Chair, Board of Review, Appointment of Paul Poppe Parks Chair
General license/permits:

Grover motion to approve the consent agenda. Hempel 2nd. Carried

Old Business:

Water Tower Logo/Painting Discussion: Clerk has reached out to Jana from SEH to get information on what the extra prices would be if we wanted to go with a couple colors or a logo on the water tower. We were informed that our initial contract has only lettering, one color and one sided print on the water tower. There was also discussion that we would have to have a decision in September or the latest Oct council meeting. There was also the discussion of what the public had picked out for what they would like the water tower to look like. They had 9 different options to choose from on the city's facebook page and had the option to comment as to which one they liked the most. We had over 200 responses from the public. Unfortunately we have to wait and see if we can go with one of those designs as all of the designs were not in the scope of the original contract for cost. This will be talked about again at the September council meeting.

New Business:

Hydroflites Close of Boat Landing: Friday August 16th for the buck up show and Sept 7th Show Ski open full closure of the Hydroflites Boat Landing. Matt Buchman was in attendance for the Chetek Hydroflites to let the council know why they would be closing the boat launch. They are requesting to close it for the day because if fishermen go out during the day they may not be back in time before the closure. They would also like to be able to have some camping by the airport. It would only be a small group and would only be tents and nothing else as far as travel trailers or motor homes. The 2nd thing that Matt talked about was for Sept 7th which is the Show Ski open. Hight did ask if someone from the hydroflites were at the top of the hill to help should they need assistance and they did. Bachowski asked if the August one would be just Friday and yes it would only be Friday night. Bachowski did say if they approved it that the airport manager would have to post a notam so it would be contingent for the camping part. Hight did ask about campfires and no one was aware that that ever happened. Hight motion to approve the closing of the boat launch and the camping if it is approved by Matt. Bachowski 2nd. Carried

Police Dept painting Estimates: The police dept received 2 quotes one from Matt's Painting for \$5,900.00 and the other from Barefoot Painter LLC from Ladysmith for \$8,142.00 was from Grover asked why wanted to paint the brick. Chief said it needs to be done. They have gotten new windows and time for an update. Grover also asked about painting and Chief said that it is more of a whitewash being done or a stain. Hight brought up that it used to be the old post office and has looked at the building and feels that there could possibly be an acid wash to the brick to make it look brand new and be cheaper than paint. Hights other concern is that the brick does not currently need any updates right now and if you paint or stain it then it would need regular upkeep. Hempel asked if it was in the budget and where it would come from. It was not in the budget and would need to come from outlay or his donations. Hempel also brought

up that the quotes are 2 totally different approaches to quotes. Hempel also said that it would be a nice idea for many of our buildings to be updated and look a lot nicer. Grover was questioning as the one quote says painting and staining and the other bid says just painting. Hempel said that she was wondering what was in outlay which is a little over 160,000.00. Bachowski would like them to get clarification that it is a staining. Bachowski made a motion to accept Barefoot Painters bid for the staining of the police dept. Hempel 2nd. Hight voted no. Carried.

Resolution 2024-15 authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$1,526,529 water system revenue bonds, series 2024, and providing for other details and covenants with respect thereto. Clerk said that this is like our other bonds that we have done in the past. This one is for the water tower. Hempel made a motion for Resolution 2024-15 authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$1,526,529 water system revenue bonds, series 2024, and providing for other details and covenants with respect thereto. Bachowski 2nd. Carried.

Discussion City Ball Field: Hempel wanted to have this on the agenda so we can clear any rumors that may be going on in the city in regards to the city selling the ball field. There has been a request if the city is interested in selling the city ball field from someone that would like to do mini golf and potentially other things. The EDC is not in favor of selling the ball field at this time as it would impact the school and our city youth. The sale of the ball field has come up in legitimate discussions and rumored discussions that come up in rolling discussions. Hight asked if the people that are looking at it if it would be a for profit business and it would be. Bachowski says he loves the idea of selling the ball field but if and when it were to be sold we would have to rebuild that ball field with the proceeds and would have to be put somewhere. Grover said that unfortunately a new ball field could not be built in the Gotham Park area. It was also said that the ball field has never been officially for sale. The consensus was from the council that at this time the city is not interested in the selling of the ball field and that when they are there are multiple different things that would have to take place prior to a final closing on the property.

Parks Outlay account referendum question: Hight brought this up in Jan and would bring it up again for the November ballot. Hight was stating that all he is asking for is to ask the taxpayers about the money that landed in the outlay account. Hight has had many people ask him about the money. Grover has said that he has had comments from Ward 2 and different people have said that the city just spends money. Bachowski has said that this was just a placeholder for that money and none of it has been spent. Bachowski also feels that the committee that has been doing a good job will be able to raise the funds. Hempel said that she wishes that they were farther along in their fundraising efforts. Hempel wanted to wrap everything together and she does not disagree with a referendum question but not right now because they are still fundraising and would be more prudent in the spring. Hempel also has heard that some people's feelings are on both sides. Hight makes a motion that we adopt the lower question for the ballot in November 5th. Grover 2nd. The mayor asked for further discussion. Hempel said the agenda reads the wording of and election date of which she would be happy if it was in the spring. Grover also agreed to that. Bachowski said in regards to the treatment plant we would soon not meet the grading of the treatment plant and raising rates would be cheaper than getting fined from the DNR. Hight then said that he would amend his motion to say the spring election and the bottom example. 2nd Grover Roll call vote Bachowski- no Grover-yes Hight -yes Hempel-yes. Carried.

Closed Session: Bachowski made a motion to go into closed session. 2nd Hight. Roll call vote Bachowski-yes, Grover-yes, Hight-yes, Hempel-yes. Carried

Grover made a motion to go out of closed session. Bachowski 2nd. Roll call vote Bachowski-yes, Grover-yes, Hight-yes, Hempel-yes. Carried.

Hight made a motion to approve the operator license presented in closed session. Bachowski 2nd. Carried.

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