

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 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: Chetek Area Veterans Memorial wanted to give an update on the Civil War Monument. They wanted to thank many people it is being dismantled and is being cleaned and repaired before it gets re assembled. They estimated that it could be around 5000.00 or a little more. Marissa House the student representative for the student council. 293 Students and staff have signed a petition in regards to having Home of the Bulldogs and the purple and orange. Donna Gotham said that Wally Gotham wanted the park used for parking. They (Gothams) would like to keep it open. They would resent it if the name was changed.

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

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

Council minutes and city claims: August Council,

Department/Board reports as submitted -, Planning Commission-August, Airport-September EDC-August

Resignations and/or appointments from boards/committees: Resignation of Earl Grover from Parks Committee and appointing Scott Bachowski.

General license/permits: None

Old Business:

Water Tower Logo/Painting Discussion: Terry started the conversation off with what the numbers were again. He also said that the school would be willing to possibly pay for the cost. Hight and Grover are in favor of the City of Chetek, Home of the Bulldogs. Grover said that he is a graduate of Chetek and so was his son and daughter in law. Grover also came up with 85 votes in regards to the home of the bulldogs. Hempel sees it a little different in regards as to how and what the numbers were. She also asked where everyone was since June since no one showed up. Hight also said that the post that was on Facebook was pretty aggressive. She believes that the Pelican one should be the one. Bachowski likes both designs and has been swayed with his decision Bachowski would like to drop City of and just have Chetek and home of the bulldogs. Dan said that they would give 45 days for an extension. Bachowski asked if they would like the home of the bulldogs in black. Everyone was in agreement to remove the words City of. Hight made a motion to adopt the Chetek home of the bulldogs design with the 45 day extension granted to Maguire with contingent of the school board passing the funding of \$4,000.00. 2nd by Grover. There was discussion from Bachowski in regards to the 45 day extension and that the logo is one issue and the 45 day extension is another issue. Hight then made a motion to adopt the logo design Chetek home of the bulldogs without the city of in the color that is shown in our packet of with purple on the inside and orange of the outside of the Chetek letting and its contingent on the school board passing the funding of \$4,000.00. 2nd by Grover. Mayor asked for a roll call vote Bachowski- yes Grover-yes Hight-yes Hempel-yes Carried.

Parks & Rec Fundraising Update: Cathi from parks and Rec gave an update of the fundraising committee. She is happy to report 65,500.00 in the last 10 days. There is quite a bit in the works. Jim would add additional fundraisers. Harvest fest is this weekend and they will have a booth there. The project is 1 acre. They are also having a moving sale from someone that has donated their estate to the project. Shoe us the love is another fundraiser where they will collect shoes for 50 cents a pound over the next 2 months they have a goal of 5000 lbs of shoes. They are gonna honor Wally and Alyce in a very classy way for this community. One of the ideas they came up with was a commemorative bricks which you can put names on or logo There is a price for them.

New Business:

Award presentation by Chief of Police Ron Amborzitas to Connor Hokum for the Above and Beyond Award and along with the award is a lifesaving pin that he can wear on his uniform. Officer Hokum saved a life with a device called a life vac which aids in helping dislodge stuff from a choking person. The person did make a full recovery due to the measures that the officer took.

Preliminary Approval to vacate alley per Planning Commission. Joe stated that the Hassmers would like to vacate part of the alley by their property. They have lived there for 24 years and have been maintaining the area by their property which is just grass. There is no current alley there and Dan said there would be no need for an alley there. Hempel made a motion for preliminary approval vacating the alley per planning commissions pending the CSM Survey. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Resolution 2024-16 Reallocate Airport Fund Carmen did know that this was going to happen with the micro sealing of the runway. This resolution is to cover just about 8,000.00 that is needed. This project has been done and everyone is happy with it. Bachowski made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-16. Hempel 2nd. Carried.

Remove Sec. 2-349 through 2-352 In Division 6 Knapp Haven Nursing Home Board from Ordinance per recommendation of Planning Commission Hempel made a motion to approve. Grover 2nd. Carried

Remove Sec. 26-330 through 26-338 in Division 4 Residential Rental Inspections from Ordinance per recommendation of Planning Commission. Hempel made a motion to approve. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Remove Comm. and add SPS 320,321,322,323,324 327 16 and 325 also add SPS 381 through 387 in Sec. 26-57 per recommendation of the Planning Commission. Joe said that we forgot a couple numbers we needed to add 324 and 327. Bachowski made a motion to approve with adding 324 and 327. Hight 2nd. Carried.

Remove Comm. and add SPS 323.04 and 323.11 to Sec. 26-93 per recommendation of Planning Commission Hempel made a motion to approve. Grover 2nd. Carried. Hight also said for the viewing public that the ordinances that were just approved were cleaning up ordinances or removing ones that no longer are supported by new state regulations.

Chetek Airport Land Lease for Privately Owned Hangar. Bachowski said that they have been working on a new land lease since last December. They have come up with a solution that the majority of the hanger owners and hopefully the city would agree with for final approval for the lease. This lease does cover the city per our city attorney. Bachowski would like to have them all returned by Nov 30th. Hempel made a motion to approve the new airport land lease and returned by Nov 30th,2024 to the city. 2nd by Hight. Carried.

City Hall painting bids. The city hall painting was put in the budget for this year. The 2 th submitted bids last year also resubmitted bids last year. Hight did say that they should be sealed bids as were done in the past. Clerk said that there are only certain times that sealed bids are needed. Hempel said that per our ordinance it would be anything over 25,000.00. We have verbal, informal and formal. Bachowski made a motion to go with a lower bid of 5,572.00 and award that to Joshua Eby. 2nd by Hempel. Hight voted no. Carried.

Clarification of Referendum Passed. This was put on the agenda by Bachowski. Clerk did state that before we discuss too much about it that he made the council aware of a new state law in June of 2023 that stated local county and municipal governments are now limited in the types of advisory questions they can ask voters. Subjects concerning proposed expenditures funded with property tax revenue, shared revenue, boundary changes, telecommunication and municipal cable service are ok. Everything else is off limits. Because the funds in question are from the

fund balance the state does not see that money as taxpayer funds so therefore the question of the referendum that was stated at the last meeting can not be asked to taxpayers. City Hall did reach out to the league attorney and get their opinion and they did say that no we could not ask that question the way that it was worded. We would have to ask in a different context to make it a legal question to ask the tax payers. Hight made a motion to approve a binding referendum question to say Shall the City Give Gotham Parks Sports Complex 75,000.00 that is currently in Parks Outlay account to be on the April 2025 ballot. Grover 2nd. Bachowski said that when the money was allocated it was approved by the current council. Bachowski thinks that it is being circumvented. Grover stated that there were 2 of the council that voted no. Hempel joined Scott to guarantee that amount of money to be put away last November. Bachowski- no Grover- yes Hight-yes Hempel-yes

Discussion of Appraisal for Ballfield and old WWTP: EDC is recommending it would like to have a professional appraisal done on the old WWTP and Ball Field. There is no stance with this body of selling the property now. The appraisals would be \$3,000.00. Hempel did quote again that the ball field is not for sale. Bachowski said that we should maybe wait and see if council is interested in selling either of the properties before the appraisal is done to save the money. Hempel did say that they do have someone that would buy the old WWTP today if it was for sale. Dan also did say that he is not sure as to how much of the land he would need yet. Hempel did decide for the EDC to hold off on the appraisal till Dan talked with her so the correct amount of land would get appraised. Grover makes a motion to hire an appraiser to find out the value of the properties. Hight 2nd. Discussion Bachowski said that it is the cart before the horse. Bachowski also asked how much would be buildable? Joe did say part of it is in the flood fringe. Hempel said that the interested parties have looked into all of this and the flood area would not be a problem. Mayor asked for a roll call vote. Hempel-yes, Hight-yes, Grover-yes, Bachowski No. Bachowski did finish up by saying that they are spending more taxpayer funds that wouldn't need to be spent at this time. Carried.

WWTP update & motion on amount Dan can approve for WWTP change orders. 655,096.00 in contingency funds currently. Sometimes there is no time to try and get an answer from the council when a decision needs to be made in regards to some of the change orders because we are nearing the end of construction things may arise more frequently or suddenly since we are nearing the end. Dan also did say in regards to what he had done he was also trying to save the city some money. Hempel made a motion to allow 10k per circumstance for Dan to approve change orders at the WWTP project. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Approval of planting of 2 reed beds. Plant the other 2 beds as there were only 2 planted because this was new to everyone. The seeds came from 3 different areas in Barron County. They had zero loss on the current 2 reed beds. We did get a \$12,000.00 break for the last 2 reed beds because he has access to our reeds. Hight made a motion of the planting of the last 2 reed beds. 2nd by Bachowski. Carried.

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

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

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