

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, November 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 6:08 p.m.

Members in attendance: Mayor Martin, Scott Bachowski, Earl Grover, Terry Hight, Thea Hempel

Public comments: Paul Poppe said that he could not agree with the mayor more on how well the city looks. Poppe said that there is broader work that needs to be done. Poppe also said that he was grateful for the parks committee and the fundraising committee for all their work that they have done.

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

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

Council minutes and city claims: October Council

Department/Board reports as submitted - Planning Commission-October, Chetek Ambulance- October,

Resignations and/or appointments from boards/committees: **Roger Morse appointed to Airport Committee**

General license/permits:

Old Business:

New Business:

The request to close the street for Christmas in the Courtyard. Christmas in the courtyard has now started to outgrow the area so that is why they are asking to close the street this year. The chief said that he does not have a problem. Bachowski made a motion to approve the request to close the street for Christmas in the courtyard. Grover 2nd. Carried

Car Club to use the airport for the July car show during Liberty Fest. They send a letter to do this annually during Liberty Fest. Bachowski makes a motion to use the airport in July for their car show. Grover 2nd. Carried

Resolution 2024-19 Wages during the budget committee was suggested that since it has been 11 years since the last wage increase has occurred for either position that we look at increasing the council & mayor wages this would be a \$25 raise per month for the newly elected council members which would be for ward one and three it would start at the April in statement and then would apply the following year for wards two and four. It would bring the council pay to \$385 per month versus the \$360 that they currently receive. This is already calculated into the upcoming budget and does fit within that budget. For the mayor it would be a \$50 a month increase raising his wage from 669.50 per month to \$719.50 per month again this would take effect in April. The mayor said I think the public should realize anybody who serves on this committee ain't in it for the money. Any of these people they're not paid by the meeting they get a stipend they're happy to do it. I already know what some of them are gonna say. This carries a lot of responsibility and they have to do a lot of homework before they come. Terry said twice before I didn't know that there was pay when I ran for election. None of the council members knew that. I viewed this as a public service. I will add that there is a lot more homework and committee work than I thought there was. It has grown over the past five years as far as my committee assignments and the challenge of them but having said that my stance is still the same, I'm not gonna vote for an increase. Earl said I also have to agree with Terry. I'm serving the community, I'm just not here for the money. I would also continue my stand so that I'm here for ward two and I get feedback from people in the community. I think as a council responsibility should be not only to ourselves but everyone in the community. They understand that we are their voice and it's really important to be able to communicate with people and talk to people because we sit here and we are the voice of our wards. Scott said my stance is the same as well. We definitely are the voice of our wards however you know i've been doing this now since 2017

depending on what committee your assigned to and I know there's a couple of us that are on committees that take up a lot of our personal time so yes we serve our communities but we also have to think about our personal time and the personal time that someone down the road may be sitting in this chair and yeah I didn't realize we even got paid. When I got elected for the first time in 2017 I didn't really care about the money I still don't really care about the money but I do care about how much personal time it does take so I think a \$25 bump is not unreasonable. Thea said that I struggled with this as well because I did not know we got paid that's definitely not why I'm here or a teacher but I do want to point out the reason discussion we had in the budget committee is that this has been a line item n a line item in the budget at \$18,500 a year and can you how long is that number stood as a line item 11 years so for 11 years we have a line item this is how government funding works it is \$18,500 a Year and that never has that number never been reached. So while we have that money allocated this is not an increase in that line item it just takes us closer to it. I would be opposed to this if for some reason we were changing that number line item but I do know as well that I work 2 24 seven jobs between my work here and my work as an educator and I have logged sometimes up to 125 hours a month in my work as a council member and so I hate when I hear government voting for a raise for themselves but in essence this just takes us up to the line item amount. I think that's important to mention that we are not raising that line item amount so I will be in favor of this. The Mayor said like I said these individuals I know they're not gonna think it's reasonable it's not we're talking about pennies really. Bachowski made the motion that we approve resolution 2024-19. Hempel 2nd. The mayor asked for a roll call vote. Bachowski- yes, Grover-no Hight-no Hempel-yes Carried.

Resolution 2024-20 Budget adoption and Tax levy. This has gone through the budget committee and has been recommended by the budget committee to the council for approval. Grover did ask about the Culture, Recreation, Education amount. This is made up of many line items to get to that amount. Hight did ask about the levy increase. Clerk Eby said that we don't have all the numbers yet but that we take the state allowable levy increase. We are not taking any additional increase as a city. Hight made a motion to approve the budget. Bachowski 2nd. Thea did say that she did feel very happy with the way the budget was done. Carried.

Resolution 2024-21 resolution to assign fund balance. This resolution is to assign the fund balance amounts. Bachowski said that he is in agreement with the outlay accounts since he is on the budget committee. Bachowski also said that he is adamant that we leave the \$5000 in the park's outlay. Grover talked about the repair of the dam bridge and making sure that some money was being put away for that project and that we need to think about it. Hight said that our part would be about a million dollars. We do have money for street construction in an outlay account. Bachowski said that the funds from the funds balance can be moved down the road if we need to. Hight asked about the 5000.00 in the park's outlay account in regards to an ice rink. This would be up to the parks committee as to what they could do with it. Hight had some questions in regards to the sidewalks. Hight said that Joe does a good job but some of them look like there is nothing wrong with the sidewalks. The sidewalk by the center that was discussed was to widen it for wheelchair ability. Hempel had questions in regards to some of the sidewalks and we also have to make sure that they are not trip hazards as we did have 2 falls this year on sidewalks. This money would only be for sidewalks that are in the central business district. Bachowski made a motion to approve resolution 2024-21. Hempel 2nd. Carried.

Resolution 2024-22 Vibrant Spaces Grant. This grant is in support of the sports complex. This grant is requesting that the grant have a resolution from the city and that we will maintain the money if they get the grant. Also that we will use the funds appropriately. Grover made a motion to approve resolution 2024-22. Hight 2nd. Carried

Approval from Council to allow Library Mural if selected from CPAL. This was discussed at the last council meeting but took no action on it as the library did not have the application turned in to CPAL. CPAL now has the application filled out by the director of the library and signed by the city clerk. In brief discussion with the library director she would like to see this mural as a community effort should it get selected. It would be the south wall and at this time not for sure what the mural or theme would be that would include the community. Hight made a motion to approve. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Ordinance 793A Shipping Container Ordinance this was talked about in the public hearing from Joe the only addition was to add the school to be able to have shipping containers. On the second page letter A 1 D exception shipping containers may be permanently placed on school property and shall comply with

D1 through six under permanent exception. So the school will still have to comply with everything else. Hempel added the reason the school wants them is for equipment storage for their sports equipment off-season and to protect them from the elements and from the critters. It keeps them from having to also use our tax dollars to re-purchase equipment and those types of things and they keep them kind of way back and so it's just a good thing for the school to have and that's really the only change to it is to allow it on the school grounds. That was the only amendment. Bachowski made a motion to approve ordinance 793A. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Ordinance 795A Shoreline Zoning Ordinance this was talked about during the public meeting. Grover made a motion to accept Ordinance 795A. Bachowski 2nd. The Mayor said that this was a lot of work for the planning commission put into this ordinance. Hempel also said that this ordinance was vetted very well through the planning commission. Carried.

Ordinance 796A Locations of detached garages and accessory buildings this was discussed during the public hearing. Grover made a motion to accept ordinance 796A Locations of detached garages and accessory buildings. Bachowski 2nd. Carried.

Olynick Land Lease This is done yearly nothing has changed in it just changed the dates to commence Dec 1 and expiring Nov 30th, 2025. Hight made a motion to approve the Olynick land lease renewal. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Airport Land Lease Increase for 2025 Matt the Airport Manager said We have two different leases out there right now. I think we're due for the 20% on the old leases. The new lease states that you can go up 2% above CPI so I would recommend you do that as well for the new lease bringing them to 5.4%. Going back in the records it appears that every three years you approve a 20% increase for those that are on that lease that would continue that standard. City Administrator said I will say that for those who have signed the new lease there are a couple who have prepaid I would ask that you don't increase theirs. Next year I'll be presenting or Matt will be presenting the CPI +2% is and at that point council will need to make the decision on if they're going to take that increase. The idea between the CPI plus 2% was to drop it down for those steady increases. If the council decided as a whole to say every year we're going to take an increase it would keep it at that it shouldn't be more than 20% so making it more manageable for the hanger owners out there instead of having large increases of 20% moving forward. Bachowski stated that we need to start to put some money away. We have a runway project that's gonna need to be done and if it makes it 10 years will be happy. Hempel made a motion for the airport lease increase for 2025. Bachowski 2nd. Carried.

Sale of Hanger 12 from Dave Thomas to Travis Turner. Laura discussed this situation. Dave Thomas sold hanger 12 to Travis Turner. This was again not done correctly with the council. Administrator Stelzner did say that she is going to draft a letter stating what is in their lease and how the sale is to go. Bachowski spoke about this and the airport committee has not made a final determination but if we stay in the state program the state will be looking at how our runway is used and how often and if the numbers decline so may some of our state funding for the airport. This is a great move for the airport to sell the hanger to Travis Turner. Grover did ask how the takeoffs and landings have been monitored now and they have not as this would be something that would be discussed with the city administrator, the airport manager and the state. Hight made a motion to approve the sale of hanger 12 to Travis Turner. Hempel 2nd. Carried.

Referendum canceled, reallocation of funds Bachowski asked for this to be on the agenda. Bachowski started with a little bit of a back story. I'm asking the council tonight to write it wrong. The tennis courts were sold back in 2004 to Kwik Trip for \$40,000 and then that money was turned around and used for a storm sewer project and I believe we can't find this but I believe at that time the city did authorize Dan to look for other places to put tennis courts and Gotham Park was one of them so I think the intentions back then of the council was to sell it to Kwik trip because obviously that was a good deal but rebuild those tennis courts. So what I'm asking council to consider tonight is to cancel the referendum for spring reallocate the \$75,000 take \$40,000 of that \$75,000 that was allocated to parks outlay account and put it toward the rebuilding of the tennis courts at Gotham Park. In my opinion it writes a wrong, it improves our community and it's my perspective it's the right thing to do. Then the other \$35,000 can be all allocated wherever you guys decide to put it. Hempel asked if they want to forgo the referendum on the 75? Bachowski said that he thinks we forgo the referendum. Hight said if I can speak for a minute I said in the

beginning that you know the Pickleball club came to us as a brand new club asked us for a corner of a park and I voted in approval of that and then it went to the parks committee and got added onto the price went up in your challenge for fundraising went up and from the original request for just Pickleball. Then the parks committee came back with an estimate of almost \$1 million. In the beginning it was to include a ballpark also and that's where I'm coming up with a statement that it was estimated close to \$1 million. Even though that got nixed the pickle ball idea morphed into more and that's fine and I applaud you guys for the fundraising that you've been doing. You've been doing great, I never would've expected it would've taken off like that and I'm glad you're getting it. My problem has always been that I think the taxpayers need some input because this was just put into an outlay account and I think the taxpayers need to speak. I spoke at a meeting and I said look if the taxpayers say yes to this referendum I will never bring it up again and I said are you willing to do the same if they say no. Going back 20 years for something that happened is a stretch for me but you know Thea you said all along you didn't think it was a bad idea to ask the taxpayers and that's how I felt about it. Ask them. I don't think it's right to run away from asking them what they feel about the expenditure of this money. Grover brought up the previous council in doing a survey six years ago. That survey and I don't know how much the city spent about \$9000. The survey was done and so full-time residents 66% responded seasonal area residence 17.15% responded, visitors 15.78% responded and interested visitors 1.03% responded. Now this is what the taxpayers are asking for: you get down the second page will guided fishing, water ski lessons, that's right on the very bottom I'm not saying that you shouldn't have tennis courts but this is what the citizens who live in the city this is what their response was. That is one reason why I also feel that the citizens should have a voice. That's what I think and it's important. We all have specific interests that we as individuals would like to see but we're on this council not representing our individual interest but we're supposed to be here representing the people in our community and I have to agree with Terry that that's why I voted for the referendum. The citizens in our community make a choice and whatever the choice is, that is their choice and I will respect that because that is why I'm here. I'm elected to represent their voice and that's why I think the referendum is necessary to let them speak. It's their money that's going to be going into this. Bachowski then addressed the council. I am also here to speak for my constituents. Looking at the minutes from 2004 I don't think the people of Chetek were asked if they wanted to sell their tennis courts. I think it just happened and I think they wanted their tennis courts back as these minutes reflect that they want Dan to keep looking for places to put the new tennis courts. That survey unfortunately one thing on that survey has been done. So citizens, visitors, seasonal residents have gotten one thing that they've asked for since we put this survey out. What are we doing to better our community? What are we doing to help our kids stay off the streets and stay out of trouble? We have to give them something to do. We have to become we have to evolve as a city if we don't evolve as a city being on the lake and the mom pops cottages the current generation is coming up they don't wanna go fishing they want other things to do Pickleball, bike riding, things like that so we as a city we have to evolve and this is one one way we can do it is by writing a wrong and giving this 40,000 back to the citizens in order to replace your tennis courts. Hempel had a couple comments the way that what I am hearing is that the \$75,000 in outlay will get broken into two parts, \$40,000 and \$35,000 no referendum. Can I be assured that no additional dollars will be asked for? City Administrator Stelzner said can I just say we do have some ARPA funds that are already allocated. Hempel said yes she allocated \$5000 in ARPA funds. This money we are talking about is not included in that and Hempel said correct. Bachowski said, I don't foresee a reason we would be asking for more money. Hempel said, I can be swayed in this manner, here's the way I think. Cancel the referendum and allocate the \$40,000 I would want the other \$35,000 to go into law-enforcement outlay. I want no ever further request for funds from this council for anything related to Gotham Park because we will maintain our public works department and will be the ones responsible for maintaining it. Not one dollar has been given from any Township which I will be forever ired about. I can be swayed to this matter if those conditions can be met. Bachowski responded let me make a point to the townships if the townships see this they see a council divided they see lack of support from the city why should they throw any money in the ring if we're not even supporting it. Hempel replied back you know what I think that's a moot point because I want this much attention given in every single one of those board meetings. Bachowski responded one of the potential outcomes of relocating his funds is to maybe have those townships now help us and help pitch in because because let's be let's be honest here they have most of the visitors when they're in the summer and so they should be helping us and I think if we're in unity and if we are we're putting a little skin in the game here more. We have the potential of them joining us then. Hempel responded ok well I will be happy to support that if I can have on record the things I just asked for. Grover responded I don't think any of us are against development of the park. What it is is that presently the city has major expenses and that's why people are concerned in the city. Hempel responded and in the feedback I have had excited about the park. Thank you for letting me have

a voice on how my tax dollars are spent. That is the feedback I am getting. Grover said the same here. Hempel responded and to poo poo that is a travesty. But if that is the way that this is gonna roll and I have been asked repeatedly about the \$40,000. I don't think going 20 years back in history is any way to approach this quite frankly. But \$40,000 breaking it out of the 75 the other \$35,000 goes to law-enforcement outlay no referendum and not one more dollar gets asked for. Hempel made a motion \$40,000 breaking it out of the 75 the other \$35,000 goes to law-enforcement outlay no referendum and not one more dollar gets asked for. Bachowski 2nd. The mayor asked for a roll call vote Bachowski-yes Grover- I do agree with you and I will vote yes, Hight-no, Hempel-yes Carried.

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

Grover made a motion to go into open session. Hempel 2nd. Roll call vote Bachowski-yes, Grover-yes, Hight-yes, Hempel-yes

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

Mark Eby, City Clerk