

Minutes of the City of Chetek Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 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, Thea Hempel Absent: Terry Hight

Public comments: Marge Jost wanted to let Dan know how impressed she was with the roads in the city and she appreciates the work. Cathi Ellingson wanted to give a report from the park and beach committee. They received a \$ 10,000.00 donation from the Lions Club. There are 10 potential naming rights at the park, 9 have been spoken for and there is 1 remaining. The fundraising committee and the parks and beach committee and all the volunteers who have done many hours of work have raised \$195,339.00.

Bachowski made a motion to approve the agenda with carving out consent agenda item C making it a new business item. 2nd by Grover. Carried.

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

Council minutes and city claims: January Council,

Department/Board reports as submitted - Library- January

Resignations and/or appointments from boards/committees:
General license/permits:

Old Business:

Water main on Kleve Laura gave an update as to what the financial portion could be she spoke with Ehlers. She asked 2 questions: do we have it in our capacity without having to raise it in our water rates. The answer was yes we have plenty of room. The next question was could this be worked into the TID. Dan says that this does give us some options for now and the future and this is something that needs to be done. With this flexibility we would not have to increase water rates. Bachowski did ask if we had someone in line for this project and Dan said that it will need to go out to bid. This has been ready to go to bid for 3 years now because we have tried for grants in the past. Grover did ask if there would be a benefit from one or the other and currently there is no benefit right now other then we can choose where the payment can come from now. Hempel made a motion to proceed with the Kleve st water main project using water funds. 2nd by Bachowski with knowing that we have the flexibility to change this in the future because water rates can not go up any more. Hempel would like it on the record. Carried.

Badger State Recovery This was spoken about last month in regards to the raze order. The city attorney would like to use a date of March 31 and not a year out because then it will show the urgency to get the building fixed or razed. Bachowski agrees with the attorney and the approach of a shorter deadline. Joe also agrees with the city attorney and his recommendation. Joe also thought of a shorter timeline when we first started with this. The mayor wanted to know what happens if March 31 comes and goes and what happens at that time then. There is still a process. Hempel said that going forward we will commit to an agreed upon level of urgency and she understands that it is a process. Hempel would like to amend the motion from the January meeting regarding the time frame on the raze order to BSR to be updated from a year of time frame to March 31, 2025 from the date of letter sent which Hempel's understanding would be tomorrow. 2nd Grover. Carried.

New Business:

Consent agenda Item C Grover said that he really appreciated the last 5 years that he has been on council and the support he had in ward 2. Grover enjoyed being on council for ward 2 but he has decided to move to a new ward in the city over in ward 1. He wanted to thank the constituents. Trevor Dysland grew up outside of Chetek he now lives in Chetek and has been for 13 years has no intentions to move. He agrees with some of the tax things and also agrees with some of the things that are happening is a necessary change. He believes that the way the council has been going is a good thing. Hempel welcomed him and thanked him for being at the council meeting as that was an important step. Hempel did ask the mayor what committees he would be on at this time the mayor said that he would for sure probably be on fire. Hempel also asked if he would stay on till the next election or if the mayor would have a special election. Hempel said he was going to interview him and that Ward 2 and the citizens of ward 2 deserve to hear who he is. She asked 3 things that he thinks Chetek is great about. Dysland said tourism is important to the City. Downtown is important and also the parks. Those are things that are important to him. She also asked 3 things that could be improved. He said that it is a tough one. He has been happy with the way things have been and understands about the increase in taxes and water bills. Growth is something that needs to happen. Grover asked about his position on budgeting and how you feel or what you think the city should do when it comes to budgeting and handling expenses. Dysland responded by saying that you have to weigh everything out can't just have a spend thrift. He says the 1% should not be that of a big concern. He also says you don't want to budget people out of the City. Grover just wanted to get his perspective on budgeting. Bachowski made a motion that the Mayor appoint Trevor Dysland to Ward 2 alderman. Hempel 2nd. Carried.

RFP for City Attorney Hempel said she does not know if anything would be done at the meeting tonight or not. Hempel was pretty underwhelmed with the timing with the attorney and it is taking an inordinate amount of time to get them to respond back. Hempel agreed wholeheartedly to hire them. Hempel said that we hired a firm and feels that we are locked into 1 attorney not getting the firm behind us for the amount of money that we are paying. Hempel would like to hear from the other entities that are also working with them. Dan said that he would agree the Verizon lease has not been attended to like it should have been and needs to be done sooner than later. Grover said that he has not had any issues with them. Laura did address the 3 things Verizon lease she said that it is up to draft 4 which has been going between our attorney and Verizon attorneys. The Development hold up was with the developer and a signed waiver to allow them to work on it because it would have been a conflict of interest. The BSR project he did not respond right away or know what was going on that week. Hempel asked if it would hurt if we did an RFP. Her concern is where the firm is. The mayor said his concern is that it has only been 6 months or so. Bachowski would like to get some more information as to the lag in response time. Bachowski thinks that the mayor should chat with them to see what they say. Bachowski feels the responses that we are getting from the firm are solid. Hempel would like a plan as to who are we gonna contact and what is the schedule and she would like the mayor to contact them. Hempel is willing to table this for 3 months and have it re looked at then. Hempel made a motion to table letter G RFP for city attorney with a communication plan that is in place to review in 3 months. Grover 2nd. Carried.

Logging of Public Works Hours for Ice Rink Hempel said that December that's when Josh presented an absolutely beautiful amazing plan. I love the idea of it having super positive feedback online. It seems to have flopped a little bit for me. I happened to be driving around and saw two public works trucks at the ice rink helping Josh put the liner down. I remember clearly what I said and the only reason I voted for this was to be a volunteer lead activity. I am aware of at least two or three times where volunteers signed up. Nobody showed up Josh has been out there on his own doing everything except for when public works has gone out. I find that completely unacceptable for how it was positioned and how it was marketed and the money that's been spent. I still think it's a really really great idea but to me it's turning into a flop already. I spent two hours on Sunday shoveling snow. Nobody's out there it's very difficult to access there's no

lights at night there's no signage. I kinda wanna know where the volunteers are and if public works is going to be involved I don't want them to be at all unless honestly there's an emergency happening either it gets booked back to the parks department or we take another look at whether or not this was a good idea and the other thing too here's my problem I happened upon this is like I was very clear like I feel like sometimes what happens here is being circumvented by private interests and I don't think it's OK. I also would like to remind this room that the city of citizens voted no on hiring more public works people so just to say hey come help us put in our ice rink is unacceptable to me. So I mean I volunteered. I've been out there shoveling. I have a lot of great ideas you can't access the rink. Grover mentioned that in the budget that there was no extra money in the budget to have people from public works helping. The Mayor wanted Dan's take and he said that he knew very little about it and that he does know that Joe was there Brandon showed up and then Matt showed up and that if they have time it is not a big deal for him to have them there. In regards to tax payers paying wage for that Dan said that they are being paid by taxpayers if they are doing that or sitting and doing nothing. Dan said if they have time he does not have a problem with it. If they don't have time that is when Dan would have an issue. Bachowski did say that at any time the council does not have authority to direct any municipal employee to direct their day to day work. Bachowski said that we as the city are not managing the ice rink. The Mayor did talk with Josh, Dan and Joe in regards to the 45 min that the 3 guys were there that day.

Alley door replacement for Community Center The pictures that were in the packet are of the alley door in the community center. The door does not close properly and is rotted. Joe has nursed that door along for 10 years; it has been the original door. Stars and stripes did give 3 estimates on doors. Stars and stripes have been doing our doors for many years. The first one would be a little over 1,000.00. The 2nd option is steel frame door with handicap opener could be as high as 3,000.00 and the 3rd option could be up to 5,000.00 Laura recommendation is the steel hinge door with the handicap opener. \$3000.00 is for the door and the frame. We can reuse the handicap opener that is already there. Hempel made a motion to replace the alley door at the Community Center with the steel door estimated around \$3000.00. 2nd Grover. Carried.

City donation of gravel for Gotham Park Sports Complex Dan got a cost estimate from Peak Excavation of what it would cost for the gravel. One question Dan asked is because covid money is involved is does this have to be put out to bid or not? Dan put together the cost 3,320 tons as the estimate. At our city cost it is \$16,600.00. \$36,520.00 is what we would sell it for. Dan said that if this went out to bid they would have to get a quantity from an engineering firm. It would have to be included and the numbers could change if this did go out to bid. Laura did say that she talked to Cassandra today and the auditors do make the correct journal entry for us as to what was revenue and offset to make sure it goes in the correct accounts for making such a donation. Bachowski said that the gravel is needed for this project. Bachowski made a motion that the city donate the gravel for the Gotham Park Sports Complex. There was no 2nd so the motion died. Bachowski did say that it was sad that a group of citizens came together for a great cause and we can do a donation with very little cost to ourselves to benefit the children of this community and yet we can't get by this. Hempel asked if we would donate to the Chetek Snowflyers club? Bachowski responded that this is different.

Approve Ordinance 799A Attached Private Garages Joe said this is part of the administrative code it does not require a public hearing. Sec 26-155 attached private garages the verbiage added has a minimum 20 min fire rating. Bachowski made a motion to approve ordinance 799A as written. 2nd Grover. Carried.

Approve Ordinance 800A Permit Requirement Joe said this is an administrative code Sec 26-249 permit required at the planning commission meeting Joe came up with what all needed a permit. Grover made a motion to approve ordinance 800A. 2nd by Hempel. Carried.

Approve hiring of Deputy Treas/Deputy Clerk Laura Said that the personnel committee selected Kim Burns. She would be starting on Monday February 17,2025. Bachowski made a motion to approve Kim Burns as the new Deputy Treasurer/Deputy Clerk 2nd by Hempel. Carried

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

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

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

Mark Eby, City Clerk