

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
5:00 P.M.
Niagara City Hall
1029 Roosevelt Road
Niagara, WI 54151

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Joseph Johnston. Present: Alderpersons Lynn Burke, Michael Darne, Daniel Decker, Lisa Johnson, and Glenn Lantagne; Police Chief Mike Chapman, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick, Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz

Excused: Alderperson Don Shampo

A motion was made by Alderperson Lantagne to approve the agenda. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke and seconded by Alderperson Darne to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 18, 2024. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke and seconded by Alderperson Decker to pre-approve the bills for February 2025. Motion carried.

The reports were reviewed. Alderperson Darne moved to approve the reports as presented. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Mayor Johnston
 - Thank you to the crews who responded to the Forest Street fire.
- Police Chief Chapman
 - Officer Seth Davis participated in “advanced interview and interrogation” training.
 - The reimbursement of \$9,400.00 for Officer Davis’s academy expenses has been received.
 - A reimbursement of \$2,500.00 was received for the Lexipol system.

Mayor Johnston discussed safety concerns at the rifle range. Due to these concerns, he has requested that the range is closed until a safety solution is found. Recommendations and possibilities include utilizing a range marshal and operating under a controlled environment. Alderperson Decker made a motion to temporarily close the rifle range until a safety plan is in place. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to approve the annual recommended sewer charge increase of five percent, noting that the sewer and water departments are funded through department revenues and not by the taxpayers. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick provided a water tank recoating update, noting that a finance and funding meeting was held on January 14. A list of submittals was given which will need to be prepared by Cedar Corporation and the City. Alderperson Decker moved to accept the report. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick stated the income survey preliminary results note that the benchmark has been achieved. It will be submitted to the Department of Administration for review. Alderperson Johnson moved to accept the report. Alderperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz and Administrator Fredrick have made site visits at the Marinette County property at Washington and Jackson Street. This will be deeded to the City effective February 1. A preliminary inspection found the building to be in good shape. The contract with the Elderly Services meal program is prepared, and rental contracts for the offices will be prepared after review by City Attorney Greg Siebold. It was determined the sites will be named the "Niagara Community Center" and "Niagara Business Center." Alderperson Decker moved to accept the report. Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Burke moved to approve hiring two summer-help Public Works employees at a wage of \$16.00 per hour. Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke to issue a liquor license to Niagara Knights of Columbus for a smear tournament at St. Anthony's Hall, February 15, 2025. Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Johnson to issue an operator license to Andy Herman for the Niagara Knights of Columbus for a smear tournament at St. Anthony's Hall, February 15, 2025. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Darne moved to approve operator licenses for Michelle Richtig, Crystal Lafave and Wendy Declark. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- A donation of \$10,000.00 for ongoing waterfall and cemetery maintenance was received by Fred "Fritz" and Ann Rouse.
- Annual audit preparation is underway, with the auditors on site January 28.
- The Public Service Commission report preparation is in progress.
- The Workman's Compensation annual audit report is being prepared.
- The USDA will be conducting a "civil rights compliance" review; this is required because the City has received funding in recent years.
- A meeting was held with Ayres Associates in reference to the Hill and Forest Street project; dates and submittal criteria were discussed.
- A primary election will be held statewide on February 18. The only item on Niagara's ballot is a contest for State Superintendent of Public Schools.
- The Christmas Village was a success, \$1,490.00 was raised for various non-profit organizations. Plans and suggestions for improvements for this year are underway.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Utility Report- Jim Stachowicz

- 125 tons of salt was delivered.
- Some road signs were replaced.
- LED lighting was added to the Fire Hall and Rescue Squad building.
- A fire hydrant was replaced, it had been broken due to a vehicle accident.
- There was a water main break on West Main Street.

Committee Reports:

- Finance Alderperson Decker
 - The financial reports have been reviewed with all in good order.
- Beautification - Alderperson Burke

- There will be a “Tailgate Party” bake sale and cookout fundraiser at Forward Financial Credit Union on February 7 to benefit Main Street Makeover.

Aldersperson Burke moved to set the next meeting for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Aldersperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Aldersperson Johnson and seconded by Aldersperson Burke to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.