

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
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 Joe Johnston. Present: Alderpersons Lynn Burke, Mike Darne, Dan Decker, Glenn Lantagne, Lisa Mattia; Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Chief Angie Moreau; Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz

Excused: Alderperson Don Shampo

Also Present: Mark Moreau, Roger Allen, David Sanicki

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

There were no public appearances.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting December 28, 2022. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke and seconded by Alderperson Mattia to pre-approve the bills for February 2023. Motion carried.

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau
 - The 2015 squad car has been placed for sale on the Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction. The auction ends February 6.

Roger Allen approached the Council to ask for consideration of opening Highway 141 to UTV/ATV use, which spans the area from Betters Court on the south end of the City limits to the bridge at the Michigan border. A DOT permit would not be needed because the current speed limit is under 35 miles per hour. Following discussion, Alderperson Lantagne moved to open the entirety of Highway 141 within the City limits with the following stipulations: Sec 9.20.020 must be amended in the Ordinance book, signs must be placed before the change is enacted, and signage will be placed to encourage riders to utilize Tyler Road instead of the highway as applicable. Alderperson Decker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with Alderpersons Burke and Darne voting "NAY" in opposition to the proposed change, and Alderpersons Decker, Lantagne and Mattia voting "AYE". Motion carried on a vote of three approved to two opposed.

Cemetery rates were discussed, as rates have not been reviewed since January 2012. Alderperson Decker moved to do an analysis of area cemetery rates, with a proposed fee schedule prepared for the February meeting. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz stated the "Schington shed" near the public works garage is dilapidated and there is evidence of trespassing within the building, presenting a danger.

Alderson Decker moved to raze the building and Alderson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Burke to amend Sec 11.12.030(f) in the code of ordinances to specify that any damage done by a personal property owner and/or agent to city property, including streets, sidewalks, curbs, concrete and asphalt must be restored at the personal property owner's expense. Any repairs made by the City will be charged to the personal property owner, plus a penalty. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Darne to approve Resolution 1-25-23 to apply for a "Vibrant Spaces Grant" with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, authorizing the City Administrator to sign and execute the grant application. The Niagara Lions Club will commit to matching the funds of the requested amount. The main feature of the proposed improvements will be a bathroom with running water that also meets ADA compliance. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Decker moved to hire two Public Works summer employees. An advertisement will be placed with the school and on the City Facebook page, and also the newspaper if necessary. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to grant a temporary liquor license to the Niagara Knights of Columbus for a smear tournament at St. Anthony's Church hall on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Alderson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to grant a temporary operator license to Andy Herman for the Niagara Knights of Columbus for a smear tournament at St. Anthony's Church hall on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Alderson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve an operator license to Todd Rochon. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick:

- The City Hall phone upgrade should be completed by February 10.
- The earliest possible grant application opportunity for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be in 2024. In the meantime, we will need to work on meeting application requirements, such as income surveys.
- Additional grant opportunities for the water tower, riverbank stabilization, equipment and park improvements are investigated on a regular basis.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Report – Jim Stachowicz:

- The plow truck has been repaired.
- Dead trees have been removed from Memorial Park.
- Storm drains have been cleaned on Bousley Parkway near the soccer fields.
- A significant water leak was discovered on the property of a homeowner, the homeowner will be having it repaired.
- The ice rink is not holding the ice; due to the lack of frost it is melting from underneath.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Alderson Burke

- Main Street Makeover will be having a bake sale and cookout at Forward Financial Credit Union on February 10, 2023.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
 - Financial reports have been reviewed and are in good standing.

Alderperson Decker moved to set the next meeting date as February 22, 2023. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Mattia to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.