

MINUTES  
City of Niagara  
Regular City Council Meeting  
February 22, 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, Police Office Mike Chapman

Excused: Alderperson Don Shampo

Also Present: Greg Siebold

A motion was made by Alderperson Lantagne to approve the agenda. Alderperson Decker 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 January 25, 2023. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker and seconded by Alderperson Darne to pre-approve the bills for March 2023. Motion carried.

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau
  - The Mobile Data Terminal recertification has been completed.
  - Officer Chapman completed ALICE training – active shooter response. This will also allow the department to expand its role with the public.
  - The 2015 squad car was sold for \$5,630.00 on the Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction.

Sewer rates were discussed. Administrator Fredrick noted the sewer department is operating at a deficit of over \$40,300.00 based on the 2022 final numbers, with the majority of the expense attributed to the rising cost of chemicals. The Council had voted in January 2022 to increase the sewer rates annually to close the gap between cost and income. Without an attempt to decrease the sewer fund deficit, the City is not eligible for certain grants or loans. In addition, shortfalls would have to come from the taxpayer-funded general fund. Alderperson Decker moved to increase sewer expenses by five percent, which would reflect an increase of \$.40 per 1,000 gallons (\$.0004/gallon) and \$1.44 bi-monthly for the sewer maintenance fund. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. The increase will go into effect beginning March 2023 and be reflected on the May 2023 billing. A roll call vote was taken with Alderpersons Burke, Darne, Decker, and Mattia voting “AYE” and Alderperson Lantagne voting “NAY”. Motion carried on a vote of four approved to one opposed.

Alderson Lantagne moved to increase cemetery rates for non-residents based on a survey of local cemeteries; the last increase was in 2012. There will be no change in rates for residents. Alderson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to hire Attorney Gregory Siebold as City Legal Counsel at a rate of \$500.00 per month, for a period of one year. After one year, the agreement will be reviewed by the City and Attorney Siebold for possible extension. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Lantagne moved to rehire Beauden Anderson as Public Works summer help. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to amend Sec 9.20.020 "Operation of All-Terrain (ATV) and Utility Terrain (UTV) Vehicles in the City" to exclude *Operation on or along U.S. Highway 141*. Alderson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Burke to purchase a speed board with solar panels. Alderson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Burke moved to purchase a lidar speed gun. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve a temporary liquor license to St. Anthony's Church, for fish fry events on Friday, March 10 and Friday, March 24, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church Hall. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve a temporary operator license to Bob Butler for St. Anthony's Church, fish fry events on Friday, March 10 and Friday, March 24, 2023 at St. Anthony's Church Hall. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve a fireworks permit for the Niagara Lions Club Picnic, Heights Park, Saturday, June 24, 2023. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve a temporary liquor license to the Niagara Lions Club for the annual picnic at Heights Park, Friday, June 23, 2023 and Saturday, June 24, 2023. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve a temporary Operator License to Joe Johnston for the Niagara Lions Club Picnic at Heights Park, Friday, June 23, 2023 and Saturday, June 24, 2023. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Decker moved to approve the purchase of a replacement salter box from Monroe Truck Equipment on the condition the dealer will accept a down payment until the City can secure financing. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve an operator license for Aleah Cotton. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Lantagne moved to sponsor an ad in the Niagara Badger school yearbook for \$75.00. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- The City Hall phone upgrades were completed by Nsight.
- The Police Department open position will be advertised.
- Annual audit preparation has begun, with the auditors onsite the week of March 6.
- The workers compensation audit has been completed.
- The annual Board of Review is scheduled for May 22 at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- There was a 14 percent participation for the Spring Partisan Primary election.
- Additional grant opportunities are continued to be sought, and there has been steady communication with the State.
- A help-wanted ad was placed for a second Public Works summer employee.

#### Public Works, Water and Sewer Report – Jim Stachowicz

- The “Schintgen shed” has been razed.
- Snow was removed from the fire hydrants.
- Snowbanks were pushed back along the highway.
- There have been sewer backups, these are attributed to home occupants flushing paper towels or baby wipes.
- GFCI outlets were replaced at the pavilion at the boat landing.

#### Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Alderperson Burke
  - The Main Street Makeover bake sale was successful, with proceeds of over \$2,000 raised.
  - Main Street Makeover met with Brian Rouse. A second Fun Run will be held on September 30. Ideas for additional beautification projects and purchases are being collected.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
  - Financial reports have been reviewed and are in good standing. Property tax collections will be distributed to the applicable entities.

The following items were struck from the agenda:

30. Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) (if applicable)
31. Reconvene To Open Session (if applicable)
32. Action On Closed Session Discussion (if any)

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.