

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2019 at 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 Bousley. Present: Mayor Bousley, Aldermen Darne, Decker, Kuchinski, Lantagne, and West. Excused: Alderman Moreau. Also present: Public Works Coordinator Ron Rugg, Police Chief Karl Lamoreaux, Acting Police Chief Angela Moreau, Police Officer Todd Rochon, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Coppens, Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick, Mark Sanicki, Amanda Sanicki, and Lynn Schabo Burke. Also attending via conference call: Attorney Robert Burns.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Darne to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: Mayor Bousley recognized retiring Police Chief Karl Lamoreaux for his 26 years of service. The Police Chief was presented with a plaque of appreciation.

Alderman West moved to enter closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(c) Wis. Stat., “considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation date of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility”; for purpose of discussion and update regarding police department employee leave matter” at 5:05 p.m. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried. A roll call attendance was taken, with Aldermen Darne, Decker, Kuchinski, Lantagne, and West present. Alderman Moreau was excused.

Alderman Darne moved to reconvene to open session at 5:26 p.m. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried. A roll call attendance was taken, with Aldermen Darne, Decker, Kuchinski, Lantagne, and West present. Alderman Moreau was excused.

Alderman West made a motion to authorize legal counsel and allow Mayor Bousley to finalize the resolution of the Police Department leave matter as discussed in closed session. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all in attendance voting “Aye”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne and seconded by Alderman West to approve the minutes from January 30, 2019. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne and seconded by Alderman Decker to pre-approve the bills for March 2019. Motion carried.

The reports were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Kuchinski to approve the reports as presented. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There were no reports from department heads or elected officials.

The Council heard a request from Mark and Amanda Sanicki to re-zone the former Northeast Wisconsin Technical College building from commercial to multi-family residential. The building is located at 705 Washington Street, Niagara. Mr. Sanicki stated that the building is currently

vacant. He intends to convert the property into 10 to 14 apartments, pending approval of the re-zoning request. Mayor Bousley stated that a notice of a hearing by the Planning Committee for the re-zoning intent must first be published in the official City newspaper two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting. If the request is approved by the Planning Committee, it will be sent to the City Council for final approval. Alderman West moved to forward the request to the Planning Committee for action. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all in attendance voting "Aye". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to hire a Marinette County sheriff's deputy to fill a current part-time vacancy due to short-staffing. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Kuchinski moved to acknowledge that the contingencies have been met with the DOT agreements. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne moved to approve a payment grace period for utility accounts 113500 and 218103. Alderman Kuchinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve City resident Joe Smejkal to provide shoveling and snow removal services at City Hall on an as-needed basis. The pay rate will be at \$15.00 per hour plus a \$9.00 call-in payment for returning during the same weather event. Mr. Smejkal will provide his own equipment if necessary. Mayor Bousley noted that the agreement will be reviewed after winter weather has ceased. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne made a motion to recognize the information provided by Fire Chief Shawn Brown's in reference to the purchase of water rescue equipment from Atlas Outfitters for \$7,824.00. The Niagara Township will cover fifty percent of the cost (\$3,912.00.) Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Lantagne moved to issue a temporary operator's license to Robert Burton for the St. Anthony fish fry on March 15, 2019. Alderman Kuchinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Lantagne moved to issue a temporary operator's license to Robert Butler for the St. Anthony fish fry on April 12, 2019. Alderman Kuchinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The policy for issuing operator's (beverage server) licenses was discussed. Operator license requests will continue to be approved by City Council action, as required by the state. The city is not required by the state to run background checks prior to issuing an operator license. Alderman Decker moved to have business owners assume the responsibility for performing background checks on their employees. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to approve an operator's license for Zoey Simon. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to approve an operator's license for Abigail Zidarich. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne to approve Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Coppens and Clerk/Treasurer Fredrick to attend a "front desk safety and security" workshop in Green Bay, WI on April 9, 2109. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Coppens and Clerk/Treasurer Fredrick to attend an “administrative professionals” conference in Marinette, WI on April 24, 2109. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman West moved to sponsor an ad pledge of \$125.00 for the Niagara High School yearbook. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantagne to accept the resignation of Tim Phillips as the City representative of the Marinette County Association for Business and Industry. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker made a motion to approve an hourly rate of \$22.05 for part-time snowplow driver Matthew Zanon. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Fredrick gave the administrative report:

- The City will be live on the new utility billing system in March.
- Four occupied and fifteen vacant residences were unresponsive to the delinquent water utility notices that were mailed in February. Due to the snow cover, the valves for service shutoff could not be accessed.
- The second installment payment was received for the Dewey Street property on schedule.
- Seven delinquent personal property tax notices were sent by certified mail.
- The library contract language was modified and presented to the library for review.
- The worker’s compensation audit will be conducted on March 26, 2019.
- The city audit will be conducted March 25 through March 27, 2019.

Alderman Decker moved to approve the report as presented, and Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Rugg provided the water and sewer report:

- The plant has been running well. There are some instances of frozen lines.

Alderman Decker moved to approve the report as presented. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Public Works Coordinator Rugg stated that due to the frequent snow events, the City crew has been doing excessive plowing. There is increased equipment repair needed. The salt budget has been used up.
- Acting Police Chief Moreau informed the Council that the potential full-time police officer candidate did not meet the requirements for hiring. An alternate candidate from the January interview process will be offered the position.

Alderman Darne moved to approve the reports as presented, and Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to set the next meeting date will as March 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Alderman Kuchinski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Decker and seconded by Alderman West to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.