

MINUTES  
City of Niagara  
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes  
March 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, Moreau and West, Public Works Coordinator Ron Rugg, Police Chief Angela Moreau, and Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick. Also present: Deputy Zak Albrecht – Marinette County Recreational Officer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Warden Kelly Crotty, Tracy Coppens, Dennis Liebergen, Russell Bath, Scot Spade, Shane DeJardin, David Sanicki, Roger Allen, Zach Olivera, Lenore Neveau and Lynn Burke.

A motion was made by Alderman West and seconded by Alderman Darne to move agenda line item 11 before agenda line item 10, and to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Appearances: David Sanicki questioned why the City cannot open the roads to UTV / ATV use, as he would like to provide notice of approval to Marinette County. Dennis Liebergen stated that the request had been previously addressed at a meeting in October 2018. Mayor Bousley noted that legal protocol needs to be followed.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker and seconded by Alderman Lantagne to approve the minutes from February 27, 2019 and March 20, 2019. Motion carried.

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

The reports were reviewed. Alderman Lantagne questioned the purchase of road salt from Marinette County. Public Works Coordinator Rugg stated that the city's supply of road salt was depleted, and the usual supplier also ran out of inventory. A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve the reports as presented. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There were no reports from department heads or elected officials.

Mayor Bousley informed the Council that a committee has been organized to gather information and create a potential ordinance regarding UTV / ATV use within the City limits. Committee members are: Alderman Larry Kuchinski (chairman), Alderman Dan Decker, Alderman Glenn Lantagne, City resident Roger Allen and City resident Craig Bartolac. The Mayor also noted that if any action on this matter was to be finalized, the City must follow protocol by publishing a Class 1 notice of public hearing. Alderman Moreau moved to approve the selected committee. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all in attendance voting "Aye". Motion carried.

Police Chief Moreau presented information regarding a potential UTV / ATV ordinance for usage within the City limits.

- Chief Moreau informed the Council that she has reached out to other Wisconsin and Michigan municipalities to review their policies on the matter. Some of Chief Moreau's

immediate concerns included the City geography including the hills, as well as the presence of a State highway through town.

- Marinette County Recreational Officer Zach Albrecht and Department of Natural Resources Warden Kelly Crotty were present to provide additional information and answer questions.
- Warden Crotty spoke of potential safety issues and concerns, and urged the Council to make a thorough consideration. County officers will assist with training on laws, as they are different than other motor vehicle laws. He also recommended that if the ordinance is passed, it be reviewed after a period of time for possible modifications. Warden Crotty informed the attendees that there is a 96 decibel noise limit, and officers will need a noise meter, as well as training on using it. There would not be UTV / ATV use allowed on Highway 141, unless the Wisconsin Department of Transportation approved it. An exception is made for perpendicular highway crossing.
- Officer Albrecht suggested that a specific route be established to connect to a trail, and not to open the entire city to usage. He also noted that County trails are closed from December 1 until approximately May 1 each year.
- Area resident Dennis Liebergen stated that he would like to see the entire City open to usage, as it is difficult to get to a trail.
- City resident Roger Allen spoke about areas in the southern part of the City, as well as a section in the middle of the City, that would not have any trail access. He will make arrangements with Committee Chairman Kuchinski to set up a meeting.
- Police Chief Moreau concluded the presentation by stating that the main concern is safety. Her goal is to address the issues and establish a sturdy and fair ordinance that can be enforced.

Alderman Decker moved to support Police Chief Moreau's report. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne to hold the annual reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne moved to conduct the monthly regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 immediately following the reorganizational meeting. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker made a motion to remove unpaid personal property taxes of \$81,413.43 for Gunville Trucking and Wood Fiber as a receivable from the balance sheet, but still attempt to collect them. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Moreau to place an advertisement for summer help for the Public Works Department. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman West moved to approve the use of the Heights Park for the annual Lions Club Community Picnic on June 28 and June 29, 2019. Alderman Moreau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman West made a motion to approve a temporary liquor license for the Lions Club Community Picnic on June 28 and June 29, 2019. Alderman Moreau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman West moved to approve a temporary Operator's License to Joe Johnston at the annual Lions Club Community Picnic on June 28 and June 29, 2019. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Moreau moved to approve a temporary Operator's License to Doris Brey for the "Purse and Pour" event at St. Anthony hall on April 24, 2019. Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Committee Reports:

Clerk/Treasurer Fredrick provided the administrative report:

- The annual city audit and worker's compensation audit were both completed. The city auditor concluded that water utility loss for 2018 is \$83,000.00. The final audit results will be available in the next 4 – 6 weeks.
- The utility billing conversion has been completed and bills will be issued on the upgraded system.
- The payroll system is upgraded and in use.
- The accounts payable and general ledger system upgrades are still in progress.
- Rural Development reimbursed police department requests from grant funds, totaling \$11,785.00.
- Rural Development approved the \$2,067.00 reimbursement for tool boxes for the Public Works and Water Department from grant funds.

Alderman Decker moved to accept the report, and Alderman West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Water and Sewer Report:

- Public Works Coordinator Rugg noted that just over 50% of the radio-read antennae are installed on the water meters.
- The lift station pumps and breaker need replacing; he is hoping to use remaining Rural Development grant funds to cover this expense.

Alderman Decker made a motion to accept the report. Alderman Langtagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Public Safety Report:

- Police Chief Moreau applied for a grant of \$19,278.00 to purchase replacement scrapers for Public Works, which will make the roads safer.

Alderman West moved to accept the report. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to set the next meeting for April 16, 2019, immediately following the annual Reorganizational Meeting at 5:00 p.m. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Bousley thanked Alderman Moreau for his service on the City Council. Alderman Moreau will not be seeking re-election.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.