

MINUTES  
City of Niagara  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, June 28, 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, Don Shampo; Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Chief Angie Moreau; Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz

Also present: Brock Payette, Tiffany Hametner, Laura Valley

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

Public Appearances: Tiffany Hametner stated the vehicle speed on Bousley Parkway on soccer game nights has been excessive. Police Chief Moreau will have extra coverage on that street as available. The possibility of speed bumps will be considered.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting May 24, 2023 and the June 6, 2023 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried.

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

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau:
  - Officers participated in a CPR refresher course.
  - Officer Chapman is working on grant applications with the M&M Foundation and also for bullet-proof vests.
  - A search warrant resulted in the recovery of \$20,000 of property; a felony arrest was made.
- Mayor Johnston:
  - Additional questions have been asked about the Highway 141 grant-funded sidewalk snow removal. Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz stated that he has been watching sites for suitable equipment; any available pieces have been sold quickly.

Brock Payette addressed concerns about parking at the Riverside soccer fields. On some nights there are games at all four fields, in addition to softball games. Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz noted some trees and brush have been removed inside the fence above the softball field, but the “wetland” designation of some of the property limits expansion possibilities. Fill can be added. Alderperson Lantagne moved to expand the parking lot as much as possible as time allows in the schedule. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Shampo moved to acknowledge the positive performance of Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz since assuming the position six months ago. A merit increase of \$.50 will be added to his hourly pay rate. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Shampo moved to acknowledge the positive performance of Public Works Lead Person Matt Zanon since assuming the position six months ago. A merit increase of \$.50 will be added to his hourly pay rate. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz informed the Council that debris, including garbage, scrap metal and tires has been dumped at the compost site. He is recommending the installation of a surveillance camera. Alderson Decker moved to purchase and install the camera and include signage. Alderson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Decker moved to place the old street sweeper for sale on the Wisconsin Online Surplus website, as there is no reuse value. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Road repair priorities were discussed. Administrator Fredrick stated there is \$14,325.00 available from the State of Wisconsin that is to be used by June 2025. The City is required to provide a 100% match, and the roads repaired must be on Ridge, Brook or Park Streets. Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz noted that repairing streets may create the need to also repair water and sewer lines. Alderson Decker moved to add these and other road repairs into the next budget, and into future budgets if funds are available. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve Resolution 06-28-23 *Compliance Maintenance Annual Report Item 4.2.1*. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A water rate increase was discussed, as recommended by City auditor Scott Sternhagen. The water department is operating with a negative cash flow; the water department budget is self-funded and is not supported by tax revenues. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has determined that our increase option is 8% (eight percent.) The fixed water fees would increase by \$2.55 per two-month billing cycle. The charge per 1,000 gallons would increase by \$0.33. A motion was made by Alderson Shampo to apply to the PSC for the rate change. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all voting "AYE." Motion carried.

Alderson Darne moved to approve the annual liquor and tobacco license renewals. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Decker moved to issue a temporary liquor license to the Niagara Knights of Columbus for the "Steak Fry" at St. Anthony's Church on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Decker moved to issue a temporary operator license to Mike Darne for the Niagara Knights of Columbus for the "Steak Fry" at St. Anthony's Church on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Darne to approve an operator license for JoRene Stephens. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- Laura Valley has accepted the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and Utility Clerk position, and she began her duties on June 26.
- The State has announced that each community will receive a minimum of a twenty percent (20%) increase in current shared revenue. This will result in an additional \$123,237.00

annually, beginning in 2024. This portion of the shared revenue must be spent on public safety and public works.

- The water tower repair project is eligible to apply for funding through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The application preparation will begin in July, with a “notice of intent to apply” due by October 31, 2023. Successful applicants will be notified in fall of 2024, and the project will be due to be completed in 2025.
- The riverbank stabilization project was discussed with Marinette County personnel. There will be further discussion in July regarding funding.

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

- The culvert was extended by the soccer field parking lot.
- Curb stop was repaired at the 1800 block of River Street.
- Portable toilets at Riverside Field have been needing pumping twice a week.
- Assisted Joey Swanson with crab apple tree planting at along river.
- The generators will be set up at the treatment plant on July 19, 2023.
- The old, unused soccer nets were removed at Heights Park.

#### Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Lynn Burke
  - The Main Street Makeover “Fun Run” is scheduled for September 30; plans are underway.
  - Crab apple trees were planted along the river, these were purchased from funds donated to Main Street Makeover in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Roger and Jeri Allen.
  - Five additional flower pots were purchased and planted along Vine Court.
- Parks – Alderperson Shampo
  - The parks are in good shape, but there are concerns with the portable toilets needing extra pumping.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
  - Financial reports have been reviewed and look good.

Alderperson Burke moved to set the next meeting date as Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Alderperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried

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

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