

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 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: Claire Valeski, Dwight Pataconi,

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

Public Appearances: None.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting July 26, 2023. Motion carried.

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

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau:
 - Officers Chapman and Parr attended Defense and Arrest Tactics and Taser trainings.
 - Officer Chapman submitted a grant to the Gary Sinise Foundation for two new computers and docking stations for the squad cars – the docking station in the #2 squad no longer works.
 - A grant award of \$1,700.00 was received from WE Energies for a laptop for training and community presentations.
 - Security cameras have been purchased using money from the “Safer Communities Grant”.
- Mayor Johnston:
 - Mass Casualty Training will be conducted with area-wide police, fire and rescue personnel.

Claire Valeski, owner of The Sandlot, approached the Council about utilizing the volleyball courts for winter recreation, including public ice skating. She would possibly need assistance from the City with flooding the rink and snow removal. The Council expressed their enthusiasm regarding winter activities but cannot provide municipal services for private entities. Administrator Fredrick will do additional research regarding options. Alderperson Shampo moved to table the request until further information is available. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Police Chief Moreau requested approval to begin the application process to obtain a grant from USDA – Rural Development for the purchase of another squad car. The 2019 squad has over 91,000 miles. Alderperson Decker moved to begin the process, and Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick reported that USDA – Rural Development does not have the funds available this year for purchasing a replacement dump/plow truck. The City was approved for \$75,000.00, but USDA – Rural Development did not obligate (set aside) funds for this year because the City was not able to locate a truck and provide a quote before their deadline. Our funding is still approved, but we will need to submit a new quote next year. The truck that is available now will have to be purchased without grant funding. The City has a \$150,000 line of credit with Stephenson National Bank and Trust, which can be used to purchase the truck currently on hold with Packer City International Trucks, Inc. Alderperson Decker moved to use \$60,000.00 from the line of credit to purchase the truck and to use the balance of the funds as necessary for other equipment needs. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Heights Park is experiencing vandalism in the pavilion area, with some graffiti, broken glass bottles, debris and overflowing garbage. Public Works Supervisor Stachowicz noted “No Glass Bottles” signage has been posted at the park for several years. Placing a security was discussed as an option. Alderperson Shampo moved to monitor the situation, including additional police checks. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Shampo moved to authorize Marinette County mail and collect 2023 property tax payments. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- Possibility of applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in conjunction with both the DOT and Safe Water Drinking Act programs.
- The farmer and vendor market will be moving to Thursday evenings for September. It has been well received.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Report – Jim Stachowicz

- Riverside soccer field still needs 10 loads of crushed gravel.
- Water valves are being exercised.
- Plow trucks are being worked on and the flatbed is being completed for the salter box.
- The brush was cleared and the bank was cut out on Maple Alley, making the road four foot wider.
- The rifle range power mast was fixed; still waiting on WE Energies to complete the project.
- A refund of approximately \$21,000.00 will be coming from Western Star for a warranty reimbursement.
- The summer employees painted the tables at Heights Park.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Lynn Burke
 - The fall décor will be placed after Labor Day.
- Parks – Alderperson Shampo
 - The parks, grass at river and soccer field parking lot are in good shape.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
 - Financial reports have been reviewed and look good.

Aldersperson Burke moved to set the next meeting date as Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Aldersperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.