

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2022
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, Donald Shampo; Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Chief Angie Moreau; Public Works Coordinator JJ Coppens; Public Works Employee Jim Stachowicz; Water Plant Operator Dave Dunlap

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

There were no public appearances.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Shampo to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting August 24, 2022.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke and seconded by Alderperson Darne to pre-approve the bills for October 2022. Motion carried.

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau:
 - There is a blight issue on the 1800 block of River Street. The Department is in the process of addressing this.
 - Three overdoses occurred in the City in the past 10 days. Officer Chapman administered life-saving measures in one of the cases and the Chief is planning on officially recognizing his actions.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke to approve the decision to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for water towers repairs and/or replacement for an amount up to one million dollars. Alderperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to hire an engineer to prepare water tower repair and / or replacement bid documents based on inspection reports. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Darne moved to approve PFAS water testing. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Jack Coppens announced that he will be retiring effective January 2, 2023 and available for call-in services as needed. Alderperson Decker moved to accept his retirement decision, and Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Mattia moved to accept the resignation of Victor (Jamie) Oratch. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Darne to appoint part-time employee Adam Faull to fill one of the full-time Public Works positions. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Decker moved to post the opening for a Public Works position. A Special Meeting will be held on October 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to interview candidates. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve the Industrial Park lighting plan from We Energies. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all voting "AYE". Motion carried.

The state Employee Trust Fund program is offering a "Public Employers' Group Income Continuation Plan". The plan is currently being offered at no charge to employers and employees through 2023. The plan will be reviewed by the state next year to determine premium cost, if any. Alderson Decker moved to approve the plan for City employees. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The City's current health insurance plan, WEA Trust, will no longer be providing insurance coverage as of January 1, 2023. The state Employee Trust Fund options reflect a premium increase. Administrator Fredrick has been researching options with various insurance providers. A motion was made by Alderson Shampo to keep the current employee premium contribution at 12.6 percent. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Aldersons Burke, Darne, Decker, Mattia and Shampo voting "AYE" and Alderson Lantagne voting "NAY". Motion carried.

Alderson Darne moved to approve the Marinette County tax collection agreement. 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 a chicken and spaghetti meal on September 29 and October 27, 2022. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve a temporary operator license to Bob Butler for a chicken and spaghetti meal at St. Anthony's church on September 29 and October 27, 2022. Alderson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- The grant application has been submitted to USDA – Rural Development for funds for a snowplow truck.
- Preparation has begun on the 2023 budget process.

Public Works Report – JJ Coppens

- The replacement snow plow blade for the Mack plow has been delivered.
- The parks are being winterized.

Water and Sewer – JJ Coppens and Dave Dunlap

- The annual sewer flushing will be done in October.
- The replacement roofing has been ordered for the #3 well.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Alderperson Burke
 - The Fun Run was very successful, and funds raised will be used to purchase additional Christmas street lighting and seasonal décor.
 - There have been many compliments on the fall decorations that were placed.
- Parks – Alderperson Shampo
 - A dead tree will be removed along the river.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
 - Financial reports have been reviewed and look good.

Alderperson Decker moved to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) at 6:18 p.m. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to reconvene to open session at 6:30 p.m. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne to finalize the resolution of the Police Department employee matter as discussed in closed session. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Burke moved to set the date for the next regular meeting of the City Council to Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Alderperson Mattia 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 6:33 p.m.