

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 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 Mike Darne, Dan Decker, Glenn Lantagne, Lisa Johnson, Don Shampo; Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Chief Angie Moreau; Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz, Police Officer Mike Chapman

Excused: Alderperson Lynn Burke

Also present: Aaron Volling

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 September 27, 2023. Motion carried.

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

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau:
 - Citations were issued within 24 hours of installing the security cameras at the Riverside Fields parking lot, which covered half the cost of the cameras.
 - Officer candidate Rhianna Carne continues to be doing exceptionally well at the academy.
 - Officer Chapman received a grant to cover fifty percent of the cost of a bullet-proof vest.
 - Officer Parr received information which led to the search of a Niagara residence, resulting in the arrest of two persons on multiple felony charges, including possession of methamphetamine, THC and firearms.
- Mayor Johnston:
 - M.J. Electric LLC has been given approval to pursue the construction of a large facility on three city-owned parcels.

Resident Aaron Volling of Forest Street expressed his concerns regarding the trimming of cedar trees along his property at the edge of the roadway. It was his opinion that the cutting was excessive. Section 11.20.070 of the Code of Ordinances was referred to, noting the City has the authority to do the cutting. Branches will hit the plow mirrors and windshields, especially when branches are heavy with snow, which reduces clearance. Alderperson Shampo moved to have the City issue a notice to the public when tree trimming takes place. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve the sale of Industrial Park parcels 261-01519.000 (Lot 1) and 261-01531.000 (Lot 13) and City Owned lot 261-00006.005 to M.J. Electric LLC for a new business complex for total of \$1.00. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to abandon Coolidge Avenue at the intersections of Bousley Parkway and Washington Avenue within the boundaries of Parcels 261-01519.000, 261-01531.000 and 261-00006.005. Water and Sewer services would also be abandoned. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to accept the retirement of Building Inspector Jane Meissner and to appoint Bob Grandaw as Building Inspector when he completes the testing process. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Shampo to approved the disposition of the former Christmas street light decorations, Cub Cadet lawnmower and generator from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will be placed on the Wisconsin Online Surplus site. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to increase the compensation for all full-time employees by three percent. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to keep the employee health insurance contributions unchanged. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz reported he has been searching for a sidewalk snow removal machine, but nothing is available. Alderman Shampo made a motion to continue the search, and Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Shampo moved to increase the residential GFL disposal rates by \$10.16 annually to meet the current budget needs, with commercial rates increasing by four percent to match the GFL increase. Administrator Fredrick noted the GFL contract expires in December of 2024, and she did compare rates for 2023, with GFL being the lowest. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Alderman Darne opposed the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4 to 1.

A motion was made Alderman Decker to approve a book exchange box outside of the Senior Center building. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne made a motion to approve a temporary liquor license to St. Anthony's Church "chicken and spaghetti dinner" event on October 26, 2023. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion.

Alderman Decker moved to approve a temporary operator license to Bob Butler for the St. Anthony's Church "chicken and spaghetti dinner" event on October 26, 2023. Alderman Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- Police Chief Angie Moreau has completed 30 years of service with the City.
- The grants and funding requests for road, sewer and water and water tower repairs have been submitted for consideration.
- Joined Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz for a meeting with Marinette County regarding LRIP (Local Road Improvement Plan) funding.
- The 2023 audit is scheduled for January 2024.

- Will be meeting with Auditor Scott Sternhagen to review the budget in early November.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Report – Jim Stachowicz

- Parks are shut down with the exception of the waterfall.
- Fence at softball field is replaced.
- Soccer field parking lot is graveled.
- Winter sand and gravel has been hauled; 138 tons was delivered.
- Brush is being removed along right-of-ways.
- Sewers are being jetted for fall maintenance.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Audrey Fredrick
 - The Main Street Fun Run was very successful.
 - A bake sale will be held at Nicolet National Bank for Main Street Makeover projects.
 - The Wine Walk was well received, Shelby DeForge commended for her coordination efforts. The proceeds were applied to lights for the Heights Park pine tree.
- Parks – Alderperson Shampo
 - The parks and parking lot are maintained.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
 - Financial meeting was held for budget preparation. Financial reports are in good shape.

A motion was made at 6:11 p.m. by Alderperson Decker to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) to discuss the Police Chief appointment and compensation following the retirement of Police Chief Angie Moreau. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne to reconvene to open session at 6:34 p.m. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to appoint Officer Mike Chapman as Police Chief following the retirement of Chief Angie Moreau. In addition, Officer Chapman will be appointed as Assistant Chief effective immediately. Officer Darne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting “AYE.” Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker to set the date of the Budget Hearing for Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to set the next regular meeting date as Wednesday, November 29, 2023, immediately following the 5:00 p.m. budget hearing. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.