

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
Immediately Following the Annual Budget Hearing
Niagara City Hall
1029 Roosevelt Road
Niagara, WI 54151

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Mayor Joe Johnston. Present: Mayor Johnston, Alderpersons Lynn Burke, Michael Darne, Dan Decker, Lisa Johnson, Glenn Lantagne and Donald Shampo, Police Chief Angela Moreau, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz, Assistant Police Chief Mike Chapman

Also present: Treatment Plant Operator Dave Dunlap, Public Works Employee Andy Gerwig, Heather Lantagne, City Engineer Thad Majkowski (via teleconference), Dean Zanon of Cedar Corp

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

There were no public appearances.

A motion was made by Alderperson Shampo and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting October 18, 2023. Motion carried.

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

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Assistant Police Chief Chapman:
 - Part time Officer Jesse Parr resigned from law enforcement. Marinette County Deputy Jon Doran will serve as a part time Officer for the City.
 - A significant drug arrest was made recovering fentanyl, methamphetamine, marijuana, controlled substances and paraphernalia.
 - An incident occurred involving an impaired driver which resulted in significant fire hydrant and water line damage.
 - A foot chase resulted in the issuance of seven warrants.
 - Assistant Police Chapman conducted a bank robbery training.
 - Officer Carne is excelling in her role and is already doing arrests.
 - Assistant Police Chapman received a “Guardian Award” from the Caring House
- Mayor Johnston:
 - M.J. Electric and the City are working on a plan to get the potential M.J. Electric expansion site remediated to meet DNR approval.

Thad Majkowski and Dean Zanon of Cedar Corp presented information on the proposed water system upgrade, noting that applications for grant funding have been submitted. Alderperson Shampo moved to acknowledge the information and continue with the planning. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thad Majkowski and Dean Zanon of Cedar Corp discussed an application for a SEARCH grant through the United States Department of Agriculture / Rural Development. The purpose of the

grant is to provide funding for an engineering study and evaluation for the water system upgrade. Alderperson Decker moved to authorize Cedar Corp to complete the SEARCH grant application. Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A proposal for a dog daycare and related services at 1272 River Street was discussed; this will be brought before the Plan Commission on December 6, 2023. Alderperson Burke moved to provide the Plan Commission with the opinion that the Council is opposed to the plan. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Shampo moved to hire Wyatt Spade as a summer Public Works employee, and to post notice of an open position for a second summer employee. Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker move to acknowledge the retirement of the Clerk of Court, effective November 20, 2023. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to acknowledge the resignation of the Municipal Judge, effective November 20, 2023. Alderperson Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Shampo to approve an operator license for ArRieana Miller. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- Deputy Clerk-Treasurer / Utility Clerk Laura Valley has accepted a position with another company, her last full day at City Hall will be December 14, 2023; she offered to assist in the office as she is available.
- Property tax preparation and reports will begin following the approval of the budget.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Report – Jim Stachowicz and Dave Dunlap

- Docks have been pulled from the river for the winter.
- Christmas lights have been placed on the poles.
- The sweeper, generator, mower and old Christmas decorations were sold on the Wisconsin Online Surplus site.
- Cemetery stakes have been placed.
- Waiting on 60 tons of salt to be delivered.
- Wastewater plant is running well.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Lynn Burke
 - The Heights Park tree lighting event is Friday, December 1.
 - There will be a home decorating contest.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
 - Financial reports have been reviewed and are in good shape.

A motion was made at 6:04 p.m. by Alderperson Burke to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c). Alderperson Johnston seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker to reconvene to open session at 6:12 p.m. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Lantagne moved to appoint Tracy Daun as interim Municipal Judge to fill the vacated term until the April 2024 election. Judge Daun will appoint a Clerk of Courts. Officer Decker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting "AYE." Motion carried.

A motion was made at 6:13 p.m. by Aldersperson Decker to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c). Aldersperson Johnston seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Aldersperson Decker to reconvene to open session at 6:26 p.m. Aldersperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Decker moved to hire Jenny Nickels as Deputy Clerk-Treasurer / Utility Clerk, as she is a qualified candidate from the recently interviewed applicant pool. Aldersperson Burke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting "AYE." Motion carried.

Aldersperson Decker moved to set the next regular meeting date as Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Aldersperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.