

MINUTES  
City of Niagara  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 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; and Don Shampo, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Officer Mike Chapman, Public Works Coordinator JJ Coppens, Public Works Lead Person Jim Stachowicz

Also Present: Claire Valeski, Tracy Coppens

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 Lantagne to approve the minutes from the Budget Hearing November 22, 2022 and the Regular City Council Meeting November 22, 2022. Motion carried.

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

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Officer Chapman:
  - Officer Tyler Parr spoke at the High School regarding social media impact and concerns and domestic violence.
  - Department statistics are lower than last year due to the time needed for working on cases and processing evidence. There is an increase in the dollar amount of penalties assessed.

Mayor Johnston thanked retiring Public Works Coordinator JJ Coppens for his 25.5 years of service to the City. Alderperson Decker moved acknowledge his service and express the City's appreciation for a job well done. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claire Valeski approached the Council with a proposal to build and maintain sand volleyball courts for recreational and league use. The proposed site is on a group of vacant lots, including 261-00461.002 and 261-00559.000 along Vine Street. Public Works Coordinator Coppens recommended having test holes drilled, as the site formerly housed structures and there may be buried debris. Administrator Fredrick stated that the lots are presently zoned "Commercial" and rezoning would not be necessary; upon Council approval, a Plan Commission public meeting would be scheduled. Alderperson Decker made a motion for Ms. Valeski to move forward with her plans, and Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Shampo to cancel an existing City credit card for Jack Coppens and issue a card with a limit of \$5000.00 under James Stachowicz. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A discussion ensued regarding sidewalk snow removal concerns on Hill Street and Forest Street. Public Works Lead Person Stachowicz noted there is minimal-to-no terrace along the sidewalks, creating no place for the snow to go while plowing and causing it to be pushed back onto the sidewalk. While acknowledging that it is bothersome for the property owner, the City's responsibility is to keep the snow off of the roads. The property owner is responsible for the sidewalk clearing, as safety is a priority for all pedestrians including school students and postal workers. A motion was made by Alderperson Shampo to enforce the sidewalk ordinance. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to allocate up to \$35,000.000 towards the purchase of a snow removal machine to be used on the sidewalks along Highway 141 to keep it open in its entirety. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Lantagne to acknowledge approval of the Plan Commission on December 21, 2022 regarding the variance request at 1333 River Street. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Lantagne to acknowledge approval of the Plan Commission on December 21, 2022 regarding the sale of Industrial Park Plat 3 to Dustin Sotka / Heritage Design and Stone. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Shampo moved to accept the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance annual renewal limits. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker to approve the WE Energies lighting cost of \$44,610.13 for street lights on Coolidge Avenue and Ford Court. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick stated Rural Development will grant the City \$75,000.00 towards the cost of a snowplow. At Mayor Johnston's request, she will inquire if this amount can be applied towards a used plow. Alderperson Shampo moved to accept the update and Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- Fred (Fritz) and Ann Rouse donated \$10,000 to the city for cemetery and waterfall maintenance.
- The Niagara Lions Club is going to partner with the City on a "Vibrant Spaces" grant application.
- A grant of \$600.00 was received from the Wisconsin Elections Commission to be applied to election expenses.
- Auditor Scott Sternhagen will do a pre-audit review in early January.

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

- Two water service leaks have been repaired.
- The differential on a plow truck needs to be replaced; they are waiting for an answer regarding a possible warranty.
- One load of water was placed on the ice rink to date.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Alderperson Burke
  - Main Street Makeover will be having a bake sale and cookout at Forward Financial Credit Union on February 10, 2023.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
  - Financial reports have been reviewed and are in good standing.

Alderperson Burke moved to set the next meeting date as January 25, 2023. Alderperson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.