

MINUTES  
City of Niagara  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
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: Mayor Johnston, Alderpersons Lynn Burke, Michael Darne, Dan Decker, Lisa Johnson, Glenn Lantagne, Police Chief Angela Moreau, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz

Also Present: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jenny Nickels, Dwight Pataconi, Laura Baumler, Craig Baumler

Excused: Alderperson Don Shampo

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 Burke and seconded by Alderperson Darne to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting December 20, 2023. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Decker to pre-approve the bills for February 2024. Motion carried.

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Mayor Johnston
  - Environmental concerns are still being investigated at the proposed M.J. Electric site.
- Police Chief Moreau
  - Assistant Chief Chapman is attending “new chief training”, which is covered by state funding.
  - The eligibility list was posted for the new police officer position. Eight applicants have expressed interest to date; several have experience outside of the academy.
  - Office Carne’s training is going well; she will be in her own squad soon.
  - The 2023 department statistics were very good, with the 2024 statistics expected to continue on that same track.

Craig and Laura Baumler, owners of Elite Limousine, are interested in purchasing Industrial Park Plat 3, Parcel 261-01521-002 with the intention of building a facility and office. Administrator Fredrick informed them that they will need to submit a site plan, and she will draft a developer’s agreement. Once the site plan is submitted, it will be presented to the Planning Commission, which includes a public notice. Alderperson Decker moved to forward the request to the Planning Commission once the required documents are ready. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the annual sewer rate increase as an attempt to reduce the gap between sewer operating revenue and expenses. The increase will be five percent. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved increase the Public Works and the Water Department boot and clothing annual allowance from \$250.00 to \$400.00 annually. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker made a motion to remove Laura Valley from the accounts at Forward Financial Credit Union and at Nicolet National Bank. Jennifer Nickels will be added in her place. The \$500.00 limit on the credit card at Forward Financial Credit Union will remain unchanged. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne to issue a temporary liquor license to St. Anthony's Church for a chicken and spaghetti feed at St. Anthony's Hall on February 1, March 7 and April 4, 2024. Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to issue a temporary operator license to Bob Butler, Bill Moreau and Bryan DeForge for a chicken and spaghetti feed at St. Anthony's Hall on February 1, March 7 and April 4, 2024. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Johnson to issue a temporary liquor license to St. Anthony's Church for a fish fry at St. Anthony's Hall on February 16 and March 1, 2024. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Johnson moved to issue a temporary operator license to Shelby DeForge for St. Anthony's Church for a fish fry at St. Anthony's Hall on February 16 and March 1, 2024. Alderperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderperson Decker moved to issue an Operator License to Dianna Lundquist. Alderperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- The annual audit is underway; the auditors are scheduled to be onsite next week for one – two days.
- The worker's compensation audit will be scheduled soon.
- The annual Public Service Commission audit and report is underway; Treatment Plant Operator Dave Dunlap and Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz are instrumental in helping to complete this process.
- Deputy Clerk-Treasurer / Utility Clerk Jenny Nickels is doing very well; she began her duties on January 15.
- A letter was prepared and submitted to State Representatives at the State Assembly justifying the necessity of funding assistance for the grant writing process.
- Meeting scheduled with Kou Xiong of United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development and Thad Majkowski of Cedar Corp to discuss water system funding options.

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

- Christmas lights were removed.
- Brush removal is continuing from right-of-way areas.
- The front differential needs to be replaced in the Western Star plow truck.
- The Boss snow plow has been installed.
- A replacement salt box was installed.

- The Aramark uniform and rug contract was renegotiated, reducing costs by half.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Lynn Burke
  - Main Street Makeover will be holding a bake sale and Tailgate Party cookout at Forward Financial Credit Union on February 9.
  - More flower pots and lighted trees have been ordered.
- Finance – Alderperson Decker
  - Financial reports have been reviewed and are in good shape.

Alderperson Burke moved to set the next regular meeting date as Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held on the third Wednesday instead of the fourth Wednesday due to a scheduling conflict. Alderperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.