

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 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, Don Shampo, Police Chief Angela Moreau, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz, Municipal Judge Tracy Daun

Also Present: Police Officer Rhianna Carne, Public Works employee Andy Gerwig, Tara Murray, Abel Murray, Ginger Sweig, Tom Sweig, Rod Wartick, Bryan Clement, Teresa Clement, Tim Comer

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

There were no public appearances.

A motion was made by Alderperson Darne and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting January 24, 2024. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke and seconded by Alderperson Johnson to pre-approve the bills for March 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
 - The proposed expansion for M.J. Electric is still in the planning stage, with an intent to move forward pending action and approvals from the Department of Natural Resources. Funding options for testing costs are being investigated.
- Municipal Judge Daun
 - A new court software system has been installed, and judicial staff has been trained on its applications. Court action will be loaded directly into the system and will link with other systems.
- Police Chief Moreau
 - Officer Carne is completing her “training” status and is doing very well.

Two residents with adjoining property on Cedar Street approached the council regarding a snow removal concern involving both parties. Alderperson Shampo moved to have the parties settle their concerns independently, and that the City will be responsible for enforcing established ordinances. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick provided an update on the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) funding request for the water system project.

- The City is not eligible for a grant from USDA-RD unless we increase the amount of funding request considerably; we don't have enough loan debt to qualify for a grant. The City is eligible for a loan of 2.25 – 3 percent interest for up to 40 years through USDA-RD.
- A forty-year term loan is not recommended, as additional upgrades would be necessary before the loan term is completed.
- If a loan was taken for the full amount needed – assuming that the City could not procure additional funding from another source, water and sewer rates would need to increase significantly to make the payments, which is not a viable option. Our present water and sewer rates are not enough to cover current operating expenses, which is why a large loan would be needed to cover the additional improvement expenses.
- Reminded the Council that water and sewer departments are not funded through taxes; they are funded through utility billing.
- Other options are available; these will be discussed at the March meeting with Cedar Corporation.

Alderson Decker moved to support the report. Alderson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Decker to approve the interior lighting proposal for City Hall and the Public Works building. Alderson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Mattia to approve a sponsorship for the Niagara High School yearbook of \$75.00. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Shampo moved to reserve Heights Park for Lions Club Picnic on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29, 2024. Alderson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Burke to approve a temporary liquor license for the Niagara Lions Club for the picnic on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29, 2024. Alderson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Burke moved to approve a temporary operator license to Joe Johnston for the Niagara Lions Club for Picnic on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29, 2024. Alderson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderson Shampo and seconded by Alderson Lantagne to approve a fireworks permit for Niagara Lions Club for Picnic Saturday, June 29, 2024, pending approval of liability insurance coverage. Motion carried.

Alderson Burke made a motion to approve an operator license for Chad Eaton. Alderson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderson Shampo made a motion to approve an operator license for Destinee Miller. Alderson Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- The annual audit is completed.
- The annual Public Service Commission report is completed, with appreciation extended to Treatment Plant Operator Dave Dunlap and Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz for their assistance in providing data.
- The zoning ordinances were reviewed with Zoning Administrator Bob Grandaw. The zoning districts were reviewed and updated; Marinette County prepared a revised zoning map.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Report – Jim Stachowicz

- 150 tons of salt was delivered.

- The interior of the shop was thoroughly cleaned and painted.
- The float valve in lift station #6 is being repaired.
- A test well was abandoned, work was performed by Morin & Johnson Well Drilling & Pump.
- The roof on the cemetery building needs to be replaced.
- A company has offered to do manhole reseal demonstration at no charge.

Committee Reports:

- Beautification – Lynn Burke
 - Main Street Makeover will be meeting with Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz and Joey Swanson of Swanson Solutions to discuss improvements to the waterfall site and also the pergola along the river.
 - Light pole banners for spring and summer will be 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, March 20, 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 Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.