

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2024
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 Joseph Johnston. Present: Alderpersons Lynn Burke, Michael Darne, Daniel Decker, Lisa Johnson, Glenn Lantagne and Don Shampo; Police Chief Mike Chapman, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick, Public Works Coordinator Jim Stachowicz

Also present: Peggy Miller

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

Public Appearances: Peggy Miller, interim appointed Marinette County judge, discussed her intentions to run for judge in the April 2025 election.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker and seconded by Alderperson Shampo to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024 Budget Hearing and the regular meeting of November 21, 2024. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Burke and seconded by Alderperson Decker to pre-approve the bills for January 2025. 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 M.J. Electric project construction has wrapped up construction for the winter season and will resume next year.
- Police Chief Chapman
 - Officer Seth Davis is doing well, following his November graduation from the Police Academy.
 - The reimbursement for academy expenses has been submitted.
 - The department will participate in taser refresher training.

Administrator Fredrick provided a water tank recoating update, noting that a contractor meeting will be in January, with a full preconstruction meeting in April. Alderperson Decker moved to accept the report. Alderperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick stated the income survey response rate is at approximately 34 percent. An article was placed in the Iron Mountain Daily News, with multiple references in the Borderland Journal and City Facebook page. A sign is at the City Hall service window, with copies of the survey available. Alderperson Decker moved to accept the report. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marinette County will be selling the building that houses the Senior meal site as well as the adjoining Health and Human Services (HHS) offices. They will offer the building to the City for \$1.00 plus the deed filing fee. The building is in good condition and will be inspected by Public Works Coordinator Stachowicz, Water Department Operator Dave Dunlap and Administrator Fredrick, along with Marinette County representatives. County Administrator John Lefebvre estimates that utilities and maintenance cost approximately \$10,000.00 annually. If the building is not sold, the Senior meal site will be forced to evacuate, which will terminate the program. The purchase of the building will allow the meal site program to remain, and the organization does currently pay rent to the county. There will be multiple offices on the HHS side available for rent and the dining area can be rented for private events. This should allow the City to recoup the expenses. Alderperson Decker made a motion to purchase the building and Alderperson Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all voting "AYE." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderperson Decker to issue an operator license to Donte Gillom. Alderperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Report - Audrey Fredrick

- The "Memorial Park" account at Nicolet National Bank was closed, with the funds transferred to the City general checking account. The account has been dormant and was going to be assessed a monthly service fee.
- The Christmas Village at Heights Park is a popular attraction.
- A list of delinquent tax foreclosures was received from Marinette County.
- The Town of Niagara approved an increase from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per call to each responding member of the fire department. Department costs are split evenly between the Town and the City.
- A replacement computer was ordered for the Public Works Department; the existing one was over ten years old and no longer turned on.
- Noted that 2024 was very busy and productive, with nearly 4 million dollars committed in funding for future projects over the next few years. The City also benefitted by the development of the M.J. Electric site, saving a large amount of money in environmental cleanup fees for the former rifle range site.

Public Works, Water and Sewer Utility Report– Jim Stachowicz

- Barrier rocks were moved to the soccer field.
- The trout pond was shut down, and a new valve was installed.

Committee Reports:

- Finance – Alderperson Decker
 - The financial reports have been reviewed with all in good order.

Alderperson Decker moved to set the next meeting for Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Alderperson Shampo 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 5:37 p.m.