

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
4:45 P.M.
Niagara City Hall
1029 Roosevelt Road
Niagara, WI 54151

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Mayor George Bousley. Present: Aldermen Lynn Burke, Michael Darne, Dan Decker, Joe Johnston, Glenn Lantagne, Don Shampo; Public Works Coordinator JJ Coppens; Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Chief Angie Moreau, Water Treatment Plant Operator Dave Dunlap, Police Officer Todd Rochon

Also present: City Auditor Scott Sternhagen of CliftonLarsonAllen

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve the agenda. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There were no public appearances.

A motion was made by Alderman Shampo and seconded by Alderman Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council meeting February 24, 2021. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker and seconded by Alderman Darne to pre-approve the bills for April 2021. Motion carried.

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau
 - The two new officers are doing a very good job. They have received a letter of commendation from a local resident.
 - Felony arrests have been made recently.
 - All chapters of the ordinance book have been submitted to Municode. The recodification process is approximately fifty percent complete.

City Auditor Scott Sternhagen of CliftonLarsonAllen presented the 2020 audit results. He was happy with the results and thanked the staff for their efforts. The General Fund was discussed. Tax Increment District (TID) debt continues to be a concern. Alderman Shampo moved to accept the audit report, and Alderman Darne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all voting "AYE". Motion carried.

Alderman Decker made a motion to accept the zoning request recommendation made by the Planning Committee on March 23, 2021. If the sale of the property and developer's agreement with S.C. Swiderski LLC is approved, Plats 11 and 12 in the Industrial Park will be rezoned from Exempt – I to Multi-Family Residential – R3. Alderman Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick stated that a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) application was sent to S.C. Swiderski LLC. The offer to purchase will be reviewed, and a developer's agreement will be drafted

with legal counsel. Alderman Shampo moved to accept the report, and Alderman Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Operator Dunlap provided information on the recent inspection of the water towers. He stated the outside of the towers are inspected annually, and every five years internally. The newer tower on Jefferson Avenue needs to be recoated internally, at an approximate cost of \$250,000.00. The older tower on Van Ginkel Road needs to be sandblasted and recoated. The estimated cost of repairs is \$650,000.00. Operator Dunlap will be investigating engineering recommendations, with the possibility of decommissioning the tower. This action would also have to be approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. All work will need to be done within the next one-to-two years. A motion was made by Alderman Decker to accept the report, and Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Shampo moved to renew the library lease with Marinette County for \$650.00 per month. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne to hire up to two summer-season employees for Public Works. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Lantagne moved to approve the addition of a utility payment credit card link on the City's website for a one-year trial. There will be a charge of \$50.00 annually for site security. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Niagara Area Business Association requested permission to place banners on light poles to honor the graduating seniors. Administrator Fredrick noted that she has approval from the Department of Transportation for this action. Alderman Decker moved to allow the banners, and Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Burke to allow Niagara High School students to place teal ribbons on the light poles in April to represent "Sexual Assault Awareness Month." The ribbons are sponsored by The Caring House. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne moved to approve a temporary liquor license for the Lions Club picnic at Heights Park June 25-26, 2021. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve a temporary operator's license for Joe Johnston at the Lions Club picnic at Heights Park June 25-26, 2021. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Shampo moved to approve a fireworks permit for the Lions Club picnic at Heights Park June 25-26, 2021. Alderman Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick presented the Administrative Report:

- The semi-annual report for the Community Development Block Grant (Marinette County) was prepared and submitted. A meeting was held with City Engineer Thad Majkowski, Public Works Coordinator Coppens and herself on March 24 to review project progress and future plans.
- The Public Service Commission will be lifting the moratorium on utility shutoffs effective April 15, 2021. Currently, over 100 utility customers are past due on payments.
- A report from Northbrook Wisconsin was provided regarding the recreational areas along the river. No significant upgrades are planned.

- Niagara will be receiving a total of \$150,000.00 in a payment of \$75,000.00 in 2021 and \$75,000.00 in 2022 as part of the federal American Rescue Plan. This is intended to make up for revenue due to decreased state aid. The allowable expenditures for these funds are very specific and limited at this point, and Administrator Fredrick will be asking for a finance committee to be assigned to assist with the allocation of the funds.

Alderman Burke moved to accept the Administrative report as presented. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Operator Dunlap provided the Water Report and Sewer Report:

- The annual Consumer Confidence Report was prepared and submitted.
- The water system passed inspection.
- The sewer system is running well.

Alderman Decker moved to accept the Water and Sewer report as presented. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Park and Recreation:
 - Donated funds are in an account for a bathroom at Memorial Park. The project coordinator, Brian Diel, has been in contact with a contractor to construct the bathroom. The Public Safety Department is concerned about ongoing maintenance of the structure. Alderman Shampo will contact Mr. Diel to discuss alternative solutions.
- Beautification
 - The raffle tickets are printed; the Niagara Lions Club co-sponsored the raffle.
 - Flowers for the planters have been ordered.

Alderman Darne moved to accept the reports as presented. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Burke moved to set the next regular meeting for Monday, April 19, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. and the annual reorganizational meeting for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.