

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Immediately Following the Reorganizational Meeting
Niagara City Hall
1029 Roosevelt Road
Niagara, WI 54151

The meeting was called to order at 4:53 p.m. by City Council President Dan Decker in the absence of Mayor George Bousley. Present: Aldermen Lynn Burke, Mike Darne, Dan Decker, Joe Johnston, Glenn Lantagne and Don Shampo; Police Chief Angela Moreau and Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick.

Also present: Police Officer Heather Romback and Dale Romback

Excused: Mayor Bousley

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

There were no public appearances.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne and seconded by Alderman Burke to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2020 City Council meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Darne and seconded by Alderman Shampo to pre-approve the bills for May 2020. Motion carried.

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau:
 - Chief Moreau noted that she applied for a mass casualty grant through the M&M Foundation.
 - The police academy is shut down due to the COVID-19 situation; this delays the availability of potential recruits.
 - The radar units were recalibrated.
 - Planning for the National Night Out has begun.
 - Chief Moreau attended a chiefs meeting at Dickinson County. A topic included being reactive vs. proactive in situations such as COVID-19.
 - Officer Heather Romback attended NIMS and LAP training.

Alderman Decker moved to acknowledge that the March 2020 regular City Council meeting was cancelled by state recommendation due to COVID-19 concerns. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Police Chief Moreau informed the Council that Police Officer Heather Romback has successfully completed her one-year probationary period. Chief Moreau stated Officer Romback is a solid officer, with leadership potential. Alderman Decker moved to acknowledge the successful completion of Officer Romback's probation. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Burke to acknowledge that Mayor Bousley verbally approved payment of the April 2020 invoices, due to the cancellation of the March 2020 City Council meeting. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Burke moved to adopt a policy for City Council members to attend meetings via telecommunications during extenuating circumstances. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Fredrick provided an update on the County grant. Alderman Shampo moved to accept the report, and Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne moved to table the discussion of the creation of an ordinance for removal of abandoned gas lines, until further information is obtained. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to acknowledge a letter sent by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to residents and businesses along Highway 141 regarding the highway project, with affirmation that the project is sponsored by the State and not the City. Alderman Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board of Review meeting date was set for May 27, 2020 on a motion by Alderman Decker. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to hire one employee for summer help, with a second by Alderman Lantagne. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to approve the Niagara Area Business Association to hang banners honoring the Niagara High School Class of 2020 on the light poles. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Shampo moved to approve a liquor license for the Niagara Lions Club community picnic at Heights Park on June 26th and 27th, 2020. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Darne moved to approve an operator's license for Joe Johnston for the Niagara Lions Club community picnic at Heights Park on June 26th and 27th, 2020. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried, with Alderman Johnston abstaining from the vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantagne, and seconded by Alderman Shampo to approve the fireworks permit for the Niagara Lions Club community picnic at Heights Park on Saturday, June 27th, 2020. Motion carried.

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Fredrick presented the Administrative Report:

- The annual audit results were distributed in March. City Auditor Scott Sternhagen will review the report with the Council at the May meeting.
- Administrator Fredrick has been participating in calls three times per week with the Wisconsin League of Municipalities. Topics include elections, the Governor's executive orders, tax deferments, law interpretation and COVID-19 staffing.
- The recycling grant application was submitted.

- The April 7 election went smoothly on election day, in spite of the constantly changing protocol. Successful efforts were made to encourage early and absentee voting. Steps were taken to protect the health of the workers and voters. Administrator Fredrick commended office assistant Jenny Miller for helping with mailing 305 absentee ballots, and she thanked the election workers for participating, in spite of the potential risk of COVID-19 exposure.
- The Public Service Commission has directed utilities not to issue late fees to delinquent accounts, and services cannot be disconnected until the emergency order is lifted.

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

Water and Sewer Report:

There was no water and sewer report.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Alderman Decker moved to add a Beautification Committee report to the existing committee reports. Alderman Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker made a motion to set the next regular City Council meeting for Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 4:45 p.m. Alderman Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.