

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
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 Joe Johnston. Present: Alderpersons Lynn Burke, Mike Darne, Dan Decker, Glenn Lantagne, Lisa Mattia, Don Shampo; Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick; Police Chief Angie Moreau, Public Works Coordinator JJ Coppens

Also present: Police Officer Todd Rochon, Jody Wall, Lois Outcelt, Howard Oller

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 Darne and seconded by Alderperson Burke to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council meeting July 28, 2021. Motion carried.

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

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

Reports from department heads or elected officials:

- Police Chief Moreau
 - Officer Mike Chapman has been removed from “probationary” status after successfully completing a year of service. Chief Moreau noted that his work ethic is professional and exemplary.
 - Officer Chapman applied for and was awarded a grant from WE Energies for the purchase of an evidence camera.
 - A grant request to Rural Development for a new squad car was accepted. The amount of the funding will be approximately \$45,000.00 The City cost is estimated to be \$15,000.00. American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding may be considered for the City’s portion.
 - Chief Moreau applied for a \$10,000.00 grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation to upgrade the evidence room. The grant status is still unknown.
 - Marinette County reimbursed the City \$1,173.28 for Police Department overtime incurred in January and February related to opioid cases.

Lois Outcelt, a member of the Marinette County Library Board, as well as a member of the Friends of the Niagara Public Library spoke of the importance of the library to the community. Mrs. Outcelt also expressed her concerns with access to the library area. The entryway doors are heavy and difficult to push open. In addition, the ramp is steep. The layout of the ramp causes the water to pool and freeze at the bottom where the ramp meets the walkway. The Friends of the Niagara Public

Library would like to enlist City assistance for raising funds. Administrator Fredrick offered to look for grants and assist with the application process.

Aldersperson Decker moved to permit the library to place a lit “open/closed” sign in their window. Aldersperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Shampo made a motion to obtain a quote for adjusting the entrance door. Aldersperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Aldersperson Decker to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021 Finance Committee meeting. Aldersperson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Coppens and Administrator Fredrick reported the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) sidewalk construction project is in progress as of August 23, 2021. Letters were sent to all residents in the project area with an update to the start date, anticipated schedule and a project overview. It was noted that residents had also been notified previously. Aldersperson Mattia moved to accept the report. Aldersperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Shampo made a motion to approve the CDBG project change order #1 – *use remaining funds to extend sidewalk from Jefferson Ave to Washington Ave*. Aldersperson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Moreau stated that she been approached regarding Ordinance 13-1-94 *Off-Street Parking Restrictions in Residential Areas*, specifically in reference to cars parking on front yards. Currently, the ordinance is not enforced. Although the removal of cars from the yards would provide better aesthetics, there is not always room to park on the driveways. Enforcement will be a slow progression, along with efforts of public awareness. The ordinance is considered a zoning issue, which would require action from the Zoning Administrator. Parking on the sidewalk or terrace, as well as unregistered or junk vehicles on property is a separate ordinance and considered a violation which is enforceable by the Police Department. No action on Ordinance 13-1-94 was taken by the Council; the issue was tabled and will be revisited.

Administrator Fredrick reported that JD Castings, 1310 Roosevelt Road, has announced its upcoming relocation to Michigan. She will investigate the steps for site cleanup, with the intention of having all potential site expenses covered by the property owner. No action was taken.

ESA Solar Development Systems has contacted the City regarding the construction of a solar farm on vacant land east of Tyler Road. The proposal includes a 20 year lease for up to 20 acres. Presently, this land is unusable for other development. Aldersperson Decker moved to seek additional information. Aldersperson Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Aldersperson Burke to approve a tobacco license for Dolgencorp, LLC (Dollar General). Aldersperson Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Decker moved to issue a temporary liquor license to the Niagara Knights of Columbus steak fry, September 18, 2021 at St. Anthony’s Parish Hall. Aldersperson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Lantagne moved to issue a temporary operator license to Mike Darne for the Niagara Knights of Columbus steak fry, September 18, 2021 at St. Anthony’s Parish Hall. Aldersperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Lantagne moved to issue a temporary liquor license to St. Anthony's Church for a chicken and spaghetti feed September 27, 2021 at St. Anthony's Parish Hall. Aldersperson Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Decker moved to issue a temporary liquor license to Joe Champeau for a chicken and spaghetti feed September 27, 2021 at St. Anthony's Parish Hall. Aldersperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick presented the Administrative Report:

- Delinquent water utility shutoff notices were sent to 139 residences. Only one customer was non-responsive. Currently there is \$4,500.00 in past due charges.
- A meeting of the Planning Commission will be called to approve a conditional use permit for an AirBnB in the City limits.
- The encryption coding for accepting online utility payments on the City website is estimated at \$10,000.00 to develop. An alternative plan will be investigated. Credit and debit card payments can still be made by phone or in person.
- Administrator Fredrick will be on vacation August 26 – September 3, 2021.

Aldersperson Decker moved to accept the report as presented. Aldersperson Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Works Coordinator Coppens provided the Water and Sewer report:

- There was a water main break at the corner of Washington Avenue and Roosevelt Road. The issue has been repaired and the excavation site is scheduled to be patched.
- The sewer system is in good condition.

Aldersperson Shampo moved to accept the report as presented. Aldersperson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Park and Recreation:
 - Aldersperson Shampo stated the Memorial Park bathroom project is nearly completed. More donations are expected.
 - Rifle range repairs have started.

Aldersperson Burke moved to accept the reports as presented. Aldersperson Mattia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda Item #26 *Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c)* was struck from the agenda.

Agenda Item #27 *Reconvene To Open Session* was struck from the agenda.

A motion was made by Aldersperson Decker to set the next regular meeting date of the Niagara City Council as Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Aldersperson Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.