

MINUTES
City of Niagara
Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
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 (via speaker phone) Glenn Lantagne and Donald Shampo; Public Works Coordinator Ron Rugg, Public Works Leadman JJ Coppens and Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Audrey Fredrick.

Also present via speaker phone: Carla Miron and Tracy Coppens

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

Public Appearances:

Carla Miron of 406 Filmore Avenue expressed her concern over the brake noise emitted by semi trucks as they reach the top of the hill on Highway 141 near her home.

A motion was made by Alderman Shampo and seconded by Alderman Burke to approve the minutes from the Budget Hearing on November 11, 2020; Regular City Council meeting November 11, 2020 and Special Meeting December 2, 2020. Motion carried.

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

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

There were no reports from department heads or elected officials.

Public Works Coordinator Ron Rugg was recognized for his 27 years of service. Mr. Rugg will be retiring January 8, 2021, and the Council thanked him. Alderman Decker moved to acknowledge Mr. Rugg's service, and Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all present voting "AYE". Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick stated that there is no recent update on the Marinette County Community Development Block Grant. Modifications were submitted to the Department of Administration and are pending approval. Alderman Burke moved to accept the update. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Burke moved to accept the annual property insurance quote from Municipal Property Insurance Company. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Bousley stated that he has been in contact with the Department of Transportation and City Attorney Coggins regarding signs along the highway right-of-way. All signs in this area need to be removed. In addition, state statute requires political signs to be removed after seven days following an election. Alderman Shampo moved to have the Public Works department remove any signs that

are in the right-of-way zone. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all present voting "AYE". Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to postpone proposed water and sewer work on Mill Street for 2021. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Shampo to install "Engine Brake Mufflers Required" signs along Highway 141. It was stated that the Department of Transportation requires the signs to be labeled as noted. Alderman Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Shampo made a motion to proceed with legal action on nuisance property 261-00502.000. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Burke moved to remove "Ronnie Rugg" as Public Works credit card holder upon his retirement, and reissue the card under "Jackie Coppens" name. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to increase the credit card limit for Police Chief Angela Moreau from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00. Alderman Shampo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Burke made a motion to purchase a cellular phone for the Public Works department, which will be carried by the Public Works Coordinator or his designee. This will enable emergency services or other staff to reach an employee directly at any time. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker and Administrator Fredrick reported that the recodification committee has met and begun to review the ordinance book. Once the book has been updated, it will be presented to the Council for approval as a whole. Alderman Shampo moved to accept the report and Alderman Darne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator Fredrick presented the Administrative Report:

- The Public Service Commission is allowing late fee penalties to be placed on utility bills. Approximately \$410.00 of fees was added in December.
- The Iron Mountain Daily News is not recognized by the State of Wisconsin as an official newspaper for legal notices. The Florence Mining News/Borderland Journal has an agreement with the state which includes reduced publication costs for notices.
- Tax bills will be mailed by Marinette County. Niagara City and Township residents will see the school referendum costs at a rate per \$100,000.00 of assessed value which may be higher than some homeowners anticipated. The City lowered the millage rate, but the levy rate increased by \$20,000.00. The levy increase is due to decreased state funding for 2021.

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

Public Works Coordinator Ron Rugg provided the Water Report and Sewer Report:

- A flow meter was replaced.

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

Committee Reports:

- Public Works:

- “No Parking” Signs will be placed along the 900 block of Main Street; there is no parking anywhere along Highway 141/Main Street/River Street.
- Beautification
 - A fundraising raffle will be held, with support of the Niagara Lions Club.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Decker to move to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) (personnel) at 5:55 p.m. Alderman Lantagne seconded the motion. A roll call attendance was taken, with all present. Motion carried.

Alderman Decker moved to reconvene to open session at 6:40 p.m. Alderman Darne seconded the motion. A roll call attendance was taken, with all present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Shampo to establish a base hourly rate for JJ Coppens when he assumes the Public Works Coordinator role. An incremental increase every six months will be added pending successful performance reviews, capping at the wage of the current Public Works Coordinator. Alderman Decker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Aldermen Burke, Darne, Decker, Johnston and Shampo voting “AYE” and Alderman Lantagne voting “NAY”. Motion carried on a 5 – 1 vote.

Alderman Decker moved to set the next meeting for Wednesday, January 27, 2021 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 6:43 p.m.