

**Regular Council Meeting  
October 11, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Ottie (Robert) Baecker.

Roll Call: Deb Marsolek, Tim Hanson, Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch, Linda Longmore, Randy Symicek.  
6 Present, 0 Absent.

Others Present: Attorney, Mark Franklin, City Clerk, Tiffany Bautch, Rita Boland, Kathy Manka, Lois Boe, James Woychik, and Debbie Kampa (Historical Society), Sue Glenzenski (Trempealeau County Times newspaper) Police Chief James Waniorek, Kayla Mathson (Librarian), Eli Castleberry (Street Superintendent).

City Clerk Tiffany Bautch verified proof that public notice was given.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve - Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ekern Ayes: 6 Nays: 0, Motion carried.

**Minutes – September 3, 2024**

Motion to approve with corrections- Marsolek, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Symicek Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

Kayla Mathson, Independence Public Librarian announced that Independence was awarded the 4.1 Millien Dollar Grant from the State of Wisconsin to build a New Public Library and Community Center.

**Licenses and Permits**

Building Permit- Kenny Lessman

Motion to Table Building Permit with corrections of lot dimensions and the location of where building will be placed. Symicek and 2<sup>nd</sup> - Marsolek. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0, Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Longmore started discussion on the usage of the bridge shelter. The purchasing committee reviewed the topic and determining all entities should be allowed to utilize the location following the recommended criteria.

Priority will be based on a first come first serve basis with the exemption of annual community nonprofit organizations and events will have priority. All parties will need to contact City Hall to reserve the location date and timeframe. Food Trucks can utilize this area but must supply their own generators. Limit of reserving the location for food trucks is one date per month for reserving in advance. Food Trucks are allowed to inquire throughout the month for extra dates and times. If the location is not utilized they can schedule again. If a community nonprofit organizational requests a reservation for the location; they would take presidency over a food truck regardless of advanced booking. Limit of one food truck on site location at a time.

Motion to approve the use of the bridge shelter to all entities contingent of the recommended criteria by Longmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marsolek. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

## **New Business**

Recommendations to Council was given by the Purchasing Committee after the 2025 City Employee Health Insurance Plans were reviewed.

Motion to approve the recommendations from the Purchasing Committee for the 2024-2025 City Employee Health Insurance Plan by Symicek, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Skroch. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Roll Vote, Motion Carried.

Street Superintendent, Castleberry addressed the Council with the estimates received to repair the damage that was done to the City Street Shop from the recent storms.

Motion to accept the bid from Tranberg Roofing for \$54,250.00 by Skroch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marsolek Roll Vote, Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Chief Waniorek presented to the Council on the Lexipol Computer System. He reviewed of the services that are offered and how it would relate with City ordinances and police systems.

Motion to table and review with the LEP Committee in 2025 for more information on the system by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Longmore. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Discussion was had regarding the road repair and drive way for Randy Gundersen. Recommendation for the City to pay a portion of the repair was presented to Council and the Mayor went to review this area with the property owner.

Motion to reimburse Randy Gunderson driveway for the amount of \$226.24 by Marsolek, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ekern. Roll vote, Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Mayor Baecker was addressed by James Guza regarding the potential option of a Chicken Coop going into the Annexation property of the former Guza Mine.

Motion to table until more information of what is needed regarding adding the Chicken Coop by Hanson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Skroch. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Doctor William Baxa presented recommendations to the Council following the City Hall Committee Meeting with the Historical Society and the City's Insurance Company in regards to the Insurance and Liability of opening up the City basement to the public.

Doctor Baxa handed out a summary of notes of the recommendations. Where the Historical Society would agree to cover the Exit Signs of the Building of the room.

City will need to get ahold of the Fire Marshall and the Insurance Company to see what kind of signage would be needed and the location of where the signage needs to be placed. City Clerk advised that this will take time due to budget, board of review assessments, and election. Review of this would not be addressed until January.

Chief Waniorek addressed that no public access can be had in the basement until a security room around the City and Police domain is arranged.

**Committee Reports:**

- LEP Committee: Hanson present recommendation to council to hire Dawn Abrahamson with a letter of intent as City Clerk Assistant.
  - Motion to accept letter of intent by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Longmore. Roll vote, Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.
- Ordinance Committee: Meet and reviewed Title 7.
- Water and Sewer Commission: Continue to meet with the Independence High School in regards to the high pneumonia levels coming from the school. It was determined that they will be billing the school for this.

**Correspondence:**

No Correspondence

**Approval of Invoices and Payments:**

Motion to approve paying the bills by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Symicek, Roll Vote, Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

- October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> – Clerk Budget Preparation Days/ October 14<sup>th</sup>- Pre-Budget Summary Work
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – LEP Review- Tiffany Schedule
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee Budget – Tiffany 4pm
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>- Ordinance Committee Meeting- 4pm
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am-7pm Open Book
- October 24<sup>th</sup> Street Committee Meeting- 3pm Snow Plow Removal
- October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9-4pm Election Training
- October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm Water & Sewer Commission Meeting
- October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm-8pm Board of Review Meeting
- November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm Council Meeting

**Future Agenda:**

- Library and Community Center Grant Update
- City Hall Committee Update
- Board of Review Recommendations
- Budget Meeting Date

**Closed Session:**

- A. Closed Session as provided in Wis Stat Section 19.85 (1) (e) for the purpose of deliberating, and/or negotiating, the purchase of public property and terms of agreements where competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.
- B. Closed session per Section 19.85.85(1) (c) Wis. Statutes to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion to move into closed session by Symicek, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Ekern Ayes:6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried.

Motion to return to open session by Ekern, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Hanson Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Motion to approve the motion from closed session by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Skroch Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

After having completed all matters before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

**Tiffany Bautch, City Clerk**