

Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Koosmann, Lee, Peterson and Unruh were present. Sandow was absent. Also present were CT Rosenow, Chief Darwin, PW Director Caress, Library Director Schneider, Attorney Lindquist, Vickie Schmidt, Lynn McIntyre, Kevin Oium and Carlton DeWitt.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Voice vote carried.

Lee moved and Unruh seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting and the October 6, 2020 Joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Voice vote carried.

Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve disbursements. Roll call vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

In Public Comments, Fire Chief Holden updated the council that the department burned a house for training outside the City limits but wanted everyone to be aware that all DNR approvals and inspections were in place prior to the burn. Holden also informed the council he has applied for and received a grant for \$3,000 to replace 14 helmets and also a 50/50 matching grant of \$3,750 for foam, turnout gear and 4 radios. It was also learned that with the addition of some new personnel there should be 7 people available for daytime calls.

Anna Mewis stated she was interested in the open position on the Planning Commission. Mewis also brought up concerns regarding overweight vehicles and speed issues on Syme Avenue. Mewis then asked the council if they would consider entertaining offers on the old school before voting to demolish it.

Shawn Lybert addressed the council stating he would like permission to bow hunt on City property at the saddle club and up into the compost dump area. Since this wasn't an agenda item no action was taken, but the matter will be added to the November agenda for consideration.

There was no summer rec committee report, and no update on the scoreboard installation.

Director Schneider stated the book club will be meeting at the community center now that colder weather has started. Schneider reminded everyone of the ongoing pumpkin decorating contest, stated she can possibly buy shelves for the new building from the Eau Claire public library and stated that although many libraries are closing their doors again due to rising Covid cases, she intends to stay open as long as possible.

In the Public Works report, PW Director Caress informed the council that some of the tasks they have been completing include getting equipment ready for the upcoming snowfall, water is off at the park and cemetery, the pavers in front of the hardware store have been re-set, floors painted at the Hinman bathrooms and stumps removed at the lot on 6th and Pine St. Caress said there is still work to be done on the generator at the lagoon and dissolved oxygen meter and they are working on some issues on the '99 dump truck.

A written Police report was submitted and Chief Darwin stated the new squad car will be having equipment installed next week, there are not going to be any restrictions in the City for trick or treating and he has hired Justin Malean as a new part time officer.

In the Clerk-Treasurer report Rosenow informed the council that in-person absentee voting will be taking place from October 20th-30th.

In the Mayor's report, Larson re-iterated Chief Darwin's point that no restrictions will be placed by the City on trick or treating, that the decision will be left to the individual on whether they want to participate this year.

In Old Business, there was no discussion regarding municipal buildings.

In New Business, a question was posed to Kevin Oium of Cedar Corp as to whether the City could combine the bidding process for the new building with demolition of the old school. Oium stated we could carry out the bidding at the same time, but the two projects would need to be bid separately with separate contracts awarded for each project. Peterson moved and Unruh seconded a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to demolish the old school building. Voice vote carried.

Unruh moved and Lee seconded a motion to change ordinance 163-3 removing the limitation on number of Class A beer licenses available in the City. Voice vote showed all councilpersons voting yes.

Mayor Larson indicated he had met with Tyler Doornink regarding the potential purchase of part of his lot next to the Community Center in order to accommodate the new municipal building. Doornink is willing to grant some sort of easement to the Boondock's property for access to the rear of their building and water and sewer easements will be retained for the City. Title work needs to be completed prior to the offer to purchase being drawn up.

Discussion regarding the limited number of part time police officer applicants and the cost to train part time officers has led to the thought of pursuing a third full time officer position. It was noted that the grant opportunity for a school liaison officer has expired. No decisions were made at this time, but for discussion sake, the cost of a third full time officer has been included in the preliminary 2021 budget.

CT Rosenow presented a walk-through of the preliminary budget for 2021. The preliminary budget summary will be published in the October 28th Tribune Press Reporter and the Budget Hearing/Special meeting will be November 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the community center.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn. Voice vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Rosenow
Clerk-Treasurer