

Mayor Unruh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Kletscher, Lee, Olson, Ross were present, Sandow was absent. Also present were CT Rosenow, Police Chief Klatt, PW Director Caress, Fire Chief Holden, Library Director Karlson, Lynn McIntyre, John Lindelof, Shawn DeWitt, Julie Lee, Wendy Werner, Bryan Cress, Andrea Cress and Carlton DeWitt.

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

Kletscher moved and Olson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular meeting and the November 9, 2023 Public Hearing and Special meeting. Voice vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes.

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

There were no Public Comments.

Representatives of the Summer Rec committee will be at the December meeting to give a year-end report.

In the Library report, Director Karlson reported increased enrollment in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, recent events have been well attended and October had 869 walk-in patrons.

In the Public Works report, Caress didn't have anything to add to the written report. Parking in the alley south of Maple Street on the 200 block was discussed, with Olson asking for public works and/or the police department to address vehicles that were not parked far enough off the alley for a snow plow to fit through the alley.

A written Police report was submitted by Chief Klatt.

Clerk-Treasurer Rosenow reported that an 8% increase to water rates has been approved by the Public Service Commission and would take effect December 20, 2023.

In the Mayor's report, Mayor Unruh informed the council that Christmas decorations on Oak Street have seen the end of their useful life, Public Works utilized what they could for this year and new decorations will need to be looked at for coming years. Unruh also stated he had extended an offer to the school for student council representatives to again join the council to lead the Pledge of Allegiance as has been done in the past. Unruh presented CT Rosenow a plaque for her 15-year anniversary with the City.

In Old Business, Olson moved and Lee seconded a motion to accept the offer on the Saddle Club property. Voice vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

In New Business, PW Caress presented estimates for maintenance that needs to be done at the fire hall. After discussion, Kletscher moved and Olson seconded a motion to approve purchasing ceiling tiles from Menards, hiring Blackhawk Garage Doors to apply epoxy floor coating, hiring TEM Paint & Stain to paint the bathrooms and meeting room and replacing 6 light fixtures with LED lights. Roll call vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes.

2024 Ambulance pay scale was presented for approval. Ross moved and Kletscher seconded a motion to approve the pay scale as presented. Voice vote showed DeGross, Kletscher and Ross voting yes, Lee and Olson abstaining and Sandow absent. Motion carried.

Kletscher moved and Olson seconded a motion to table discussion regarding public comments policy as it was requested by Sandow, who was not present at the meeting. Voice vote carried.

Considerable discussion was held regarding potential changes to the way the recycling center is operated. It was noted that the City is one of only two programs in the state that still source separate, process and market all the collected recyclables and it is not economical to continue doing so. PW Director Caress presented the council with several options to explore, stating it would be a trial-and-error system until the changes are in place for a while to evaluate. Olson moved Ross seconded a motion to continue having Waterman collect solid waste and having Murtha Sanitation bring in dumpsters to collect recycling with a tentative official start date of January 1st. Voice vote carried.

Councilperson Sandow also requested an agenda item to discuss future maintenance and expenses associated with the new dog park. Mayor Unruh stated that in the fund-raising efforts, there were enough waste station and garbage bags purchased to last a couple years. Without Sandow in attendance to discuss further considerations, Kletscher moved and Olson seconded a motion to table the item until the next regular meeting. Voice vote carried.

Lee moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve the 2024 building inspector contract with Weber Inspections. Voice vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

DeGross moved and Olson seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Kristine Giammattei to the library board. Voice vote carried.

Lee moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve Operator's License applications for Jessica J Olson, Andrew J Lawson and Lesley W Schouten. Voice vote carried with Kletscher and Olson abstaining.

At 7:54 p.m. DeGross moved and Kletscher seconded a motion to enter into closed session per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) Competitive or Bargaining Reasons: Deliberating of or negotiating for purchase of public properties, investment of public funds, or conduct of other specific public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; potential sale of city properties and real estate negotiations AND per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) Compensation and Evaluation: Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee subject to the jurisdiction or authority of governing body; discussion regarding employee wage/benefit adjustments. Roll call vote showed DeGross, Kletscher, Lee, Olson and Ross voting yes, Sandow absent.

At 8:53 p.m. DeGross moved and Ross seconded a motion to reconvene to open session. Roll call vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes. Sandow absent.

No action was taken on closed session discussions.

DeGross moved and Ross seconded a motion to adjourn. Voice vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Rosenow
Clerk Treasurer