

City of Bayfield Common Council

Minutes of Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Ringberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Beagan, Burkel, Carrier and Mayor Ringberg

Absent: Bryan

Others: Carol Fahrenkrog and Kati Anderson– Chamber, Kellie Pederson, Diane Fizell, Ted Dougherty, Jenna Gallagher, Craig Skadden, and Laura Lima

Staff: Treasurer Johnston, PWD Kovachevich, Chief Ladwig, W/S Berg, Office Assist. Mather, GPWWTP Op. Pearson, and Clerk Hoopman

Review/Approve Agenda: Carrier/Beagan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Public Comment and Suggestions from Persons Present on Agenda Items: None.

Discussion and Identification of Items for Future Agendas: None.

Review/Approve the Common Council minutes of February 21, 2022: Burkel/Beagan moved to approve the minutes as presented. Carried.

Kellie Pederson – gave a presentation of data from the Regional Housing Study for the City of Bayfield. It was remarkably interesting and well done. Bayfield County’s population increased during the last census, the City has an aging population and providing affordable housing a serious challenge. It is not affordable for a developer. Additionally, our median wage rates do not support home buying.

Agenda

1. Win Stephens – Quit Claim Deed and Restrictive Covenants

Burkel/Carrier made a motion to approve the additional language of “the owner of the lots has the right to cut and trim trees and brush that obstruct the view of the lake” to Exhibit “A” Restrictive covenants as requested by Mr. Win Stephens. Discussion. Motion fails by roll call vote: Beagan-no, Burkel-yes, and Carrier-no.

Carrier/Beagan moved to reject adding the proposed additional language to Exhibit “A” Restrictive covenants as requested by Mr. Win Stephens due to the language being too vague. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Burkel-no, Carrier-yes, and Beagan -yes.

2. Street Use – Lisa Flemming, Silverwaves Jewelry, LLC

Beagan/Carrier made a motion to approve the Street Use Permit request from Ms. Flemming for use of the top portion of Second Street between Manypenny and Rittenhouse Avenue on June 24, 2022, from 1-7 p.m. Passed by voice vote, all ayes.

3. Library Board – Education Assistance Policy Amendment Request

Beagan/Carrier moved to approve the revisions as provided to Employee Policy 314: Education Assistance. Discussion ensued adding education funding caps or required employee contributions. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Burkel-yes, Carrier-yes, and Beagan-yes.

4. Common Council and Committee Code of Conduct

Beagan/Carrier moved to adopt the Code of Conduct police as provided. Discussion on asking members to sign in agreement. It was determined the policy would be shared at each reorganization meeting and with all City committees, commissions, and boards. Passed by voice vote, all ayes.

5. 2022-2026 Fire Protection Agreement

Carrier/Beagan moved to approve the 2022-2026 Fire Protection Agreement as provided. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier-yes, Beagan-yes, and Burkel-yes.

6. 2021 4th Qtr. Room Tax Report

Report shows Room Tax Revenues are up in 2021 from previous years. We remain concerned about the non-taxable nights reported and have had no success in talking with the marketplace providers about their reports. All reports provided by them have errors and the Treasurer has asked for them to be corrected but has not received any responses to date. There is zero accountability in the numbers reported by them.

7. City of Bayfield Open Book and Board of Review Dates

The City of Bayfield's virtual open book session will be April 26, 2022, from 10 am to noon. The Board of Review is scheduled for May 16, 2022, from 4-6 pm.

8. Project Updates:

a. Apostle Islands Marina Project –Harbor Commission Dougherty provided a summary on the status of Viking Cruise Lines, noted the Apostle Islands Marina Breakwall project is going well, and informed them Operator Peterson intends to exit the business at the end of 2023. The Harbor Commission is planning to send a letter to City residents and marina boater on these items.
b. Waterfront Walk – Waiting for weather to improve. Contractor has been asked for project schedule.
c. Courthouse Improvements – Project bids are due April 7, 2022. Mechanical/HVAC and Elevator work have begun.
d. Zoning Code – Proposals are due March 29, 2022.
e. Wayfinding – Proposals are due April 5, 2022.
f. Playground Replacement Project – Recent Winter Fest Fundraiser went extremely well. They received approximately \$15,000 in donations. Way to go!
g. Parking Plan – See parking minutes of Feb. 24, 2022. Committee intends to update plan and start public engagement.
h. EMS Study Committee – Beagan provided a written summary outlining subcommittees and their tasks.
i. BART – Nothing new to report.
j. City Hall – Information received on City Hall valuation based on other commercial property sales. Thank you to Susie Arn for providing this information to the City. USDA- Rural Development funding available for City Hall project.

File Reports from Committees, Commission & Boards

Ambulance: Minutes of January 13, 2022

Architectural Review Board: Minutes of February 28, 2022

Fire Department: Minutes of March 7, 2022

Fire Protection: Minutes of March 16, 2022

Harbor: Minutes of February 22, March 7 and 15, 2022

Library: Minutes of February 16, 2022, and 2021 Public Library Annual Report

Parking: Minutes of February 24, 2022

Parks and Rec.: Minutes of March 3, 2022

Planning: Minutes of February 22, 2022

Police Department: February 2022 Report

Public Works: Minutes of February 22, 2022

Tree Board: Minutes of February 28, 2022

In response to Chief Ladwig's request for consideration, Beagan/Carrier moved to remove the Residency Requirement from the City's Employee Policy. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Burkel and Carrier – yes.

Burkel/Beagan made a motion to place all minutes list above and the Library's annual report on file. Carried.

With regard to the Police Chief's comments and the EMS Study Summary, Hoopman asked if opportunities exist to revisit the City's Mutual Aid agreement. We provide a great deal of support to others at a significant cost to our community. She noted recent legal fees that were incurred due to a mutual aid call to Red Cliff, and other times we covered a worker's comp. case due to an injury assisting others. It was believed the mutual agreement was signed in the 1980's sometime and has not been reviewed since.

Correspondence:

- 3/1/2022 Ehlers – Potential Refunding of Existing Bonds
- 3/10/2022 Letter from Bob Fierek – 30 No. First Street

The Council received the correspondence listed above. Informational, no action required. Mr. Fierek told Councilor Bryan he is not interested in selling his property at this time.

Treasurer: February Treasurer's Report, Voucher Payments, Fund Summary, and Budgets

Carrier/Beagan moved to accept the February Reports as provided and to place them on file. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Burkel, Carrier and Beagan – yes.

Next Mtgs: Regular and Reorganizational Meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 5:30 pm

Adjournment: Beagan/Carrier moved to adjourn. Carried. (7:42 pm)

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk