

City of Bayfield Special Common Council Meeting

Minutes of Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Ringberg called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Cirillo, Bryan, Burkel, Carrier and Mayor Ringberg

Staff: Treasurer Johnston, PWD Kovachevich, Chief Fangman, Director Nelson, Office Admin. Mather, and Clerk Hoopman

Others: Paul Swansen

Review/Approve Agenda: Bryan/Cirillo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Review/Approve the Common Council minutes of September 23, 2020: Burkel/Bryan moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 23, 2020 as presented. Carried.

Public Input on Agenda Items: Paul Swansen voiced his thoughts on the opportunities listed on the Issues and Opportunities Report included in the packets.

Agenda

1. 2021 CIP and Budgets

- a. Review the 2021 Proposed Budget and CIP's
- b. If ready, schedule Public Hearing

Burkel/Bryan moved to accept the budget presented and to move it forward as presented to a public hearing as required by law, which will be posted for Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Discussion ensued.

- Carrier asked the Council to consider make amendments to include funds for a Financial Plan.
- Cirillo recited information from the Levy and Tax Information Report which notes a home with a value of \$221,200 will have a \$37.16 increase in their City Taxes and a home with a value of \$138,500 will see a tax increase of \$23.26.

Burkel called for the question. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Cirillo, Bryan and Burkel – yes. Carrier – no.

2. Discuss solutions for the long-term financial health of the City

Hoopman noted the issues and opportunities report was crafted by her based on Council comments made during the last couple months. It was an attempt to list the items noted previously so we have a document that starts to show us what options were considered, deleted, or approved for further action.

Council discussion ensued about the various options including referendum. It was believed we have much work to do to figure out how much to request and how to communicate to the public the need for an increase. Hoopman commented that a tax levy increase is not likely to bring any new services to the table. It is needed to maintain current services and fund Capital Improvement Projects. As a municipality with only 484 people, the City provides a great deal of services: snow removal, clean water, parks and recreation activities, transportation, sanitation, recycling, marine, library, fire, police, and EMS, etc. She also suggested an increase of approximately \$300,000 was needed in perpetuity to sustain operations and refund Capital Improvement Projects which have been decreased by approximately \$150,000 annually over the years. This problem has been brewing for many years.

Carrier asked the Council to reconsider the need for a financial plan and listed the reasons why it was important. Pertaining to the 2021 budget "I ask the council the following questions,

- What are our broad goals that will provide an overall direction for our community and serve as a basis for decision making?
- What are our specific policies, plans, programs, and management strategies that define how will achieve our long-term goals?
- Will we have a budget and financial plan that moves us toward the achievement of our goals recognizing the constraints of our available resources?
- How do we plan to evaluate our performance and make adjustments as needed?"

Carrier asked the Council how this work could be funded as well as communications as we consider moving forward toward a referendum.

How do we keep moving forward? It was understood that we need to further investigate our options included developing a financial plan. Treasurer Johnston has reached out to our Auditor's and they provide this service and will be sending some information for us to consider.

3. Next Mtgs. October 21, 2020, 5:30 p.m.; November 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Bryan suggested moving the meeting time back to 4 p.m. during the winter season to better accommodate staff. Carrier noted he is not able to attend 4 p.m. due to work obligations and he does not believe the public would be best served with meetings at that time. Hoopman said it would be easier if meeting were at 4 p.m., but if meetings remain virtual, we could go home and log in. The concern is plows generally quit at around 3 p.m. and by 6 p.m. winter conditions have made driving later at night a safety issue/concern.

Adjournment: Burkel/Cirillo made a motion to adjourn. Carried. (6:30 p.m.)

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk