

City of Bayfield Common Council Meeting

Minutes of Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 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: Bryan, Cirillo, Carrier, Burkel and Mayor Ringberg

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

Others: Mike Eldred, Kate Kitchell, Pat Jerrich, Cynthia Anderson, Anne Olson, Craig Skadden, Mark Ludeking, Wade Williams, Chuck Finn, Ted Dougherty, Paul Swansen, Diane Fizell, Chuck and Nicole Bronte, David Eades, and Alisia Ray

Review/Approve Agenda: Bryan/Burkel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Review/Approve the Common Council minutes of October 5 and October 14, 2020

Burkel/Carrier made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5 and 14, 2020 as presented. Carried.

Public Input on Agenda Items: Concerns were expressed and questions were asked about the White Feather Forest Company project proposal by Kate Kitchell and Mike Eldred, Chuck and Nicole Bronte, Patrick Jerrich, Cynthia Anderson, and Keith Ray.

Agenda

1. “A Gift to the City from Bayfield Maritime Museum” in memory of Don Albrecht

The Council was shown a photo of the bench placed in memory of Don Albrecht by the Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion. Albrecht was a “mover and shaker” and is missed by all. A hearty thank you to the organizers for making this tribute happen!

2. Alisia Ray – White Feather Forest Co. Proposal, Town of Bayfield, WI

The City of Bayfield reviewed the application from Alisia Ray, White Feather Forest Company since the Bayfield City Council received a half dozen letters of concern. It was understood she is requesting permission to construct the following: a 2880 square foot Retreat Center, which includes a high-end camping store, restrooms, showers, sauna, and a variety of other spa amenities, and 10 cabins/tree houses on property she owns on Olsen-Meyer Road. The Council received a letter prior to the meeting indicating Ms. Ray is no longer pursuing the construction of 30 campsites. She said this decision was made after talking to many of her neighbors. Ms. Ray let the Council know she is happy to answer all questions about her proposal.

A motion was made by Bryan/Burkel to have the City Council to send a letter to the County Zoning Committee and the Bayfield Town Board asking them to oppose the project until a complete and accurate permit application that includes the following is received:

- Detailed site plans (to scale) that shows location and size of all facilities, parking, infrastructure, etc.
- Per the City Public Works Committee recommendation, ask the applicant to include engineering study of Meyers-Olson Rd. intersection (at applicant’s expense). Concerns were expressed about the impacts of the traffic in this residential area, and adequacy and safety of the road and intersection for all users (auto, pedestrian, bikes, etc.)
- Ask the applicant to respond to all questions raised by citizens/commenters to date via letters and public comment.

Once this information is received, the Public Works Committee and City Council are hopeful they would have another opportunity to review and respond accordingly.

3. 2021 CIP and Budgets:

The proposed 2021 Budget and CIPS will be moved forward to a public hearing that will be which will be

held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

4. Long-term Financial Health of the City – Discussion/Options:

The Council received a proposal from the City’s Auditor’s Baker Tilly to assist with the preparation of a Financial Plan. Discussion ensued regarding outcomes and price.

Carrier expressed concern about the process and what is needed to move forward. He posed the following questions:

- What amount of levy increase do we need?
- What is the purpose of the increase?
- Will the levy increase be for only the following year or on an ongoing basis?
- How does a tax referendum fit with our goals as a community?
- Holding referendums too often can create voter frustration and fatigue and undermine the credibility of elected officials. What is our plan to be successful?
- What is the financial cost of going to referendum?
- If the levy increase is unsuccessful what is our contingency plan?
- How will we demonstrate to the community that we did our due diligence?

Carrier then referenced the DOR Levy Limit Referendum Fact Sheet, which can be found at:

<https://www.revenue.wi.gov/SLFReportscotvc/exceeding-levy-limits-fact-sheet.pdf>.

No action was taken. This agenda items will remain on future Council agendas and more discussion is expected to ensue.

5. Committee Updates: L.E. Building Committee

Burkel/Bryan made a motion confirming the appointments to the City’s L.E. Building Committee as follows: Matt Zawislak, Megan Boyle, Bob Durfey, Bill Bodin, Mark Ludeking, Kate Kitchell, Tom Kovachevich, and Ted Dougherty. Carried. Thank you!

6. November 3, 2020 – General Election Updates: The City has a high absentee voter turn-out so activity at the polls is expected to be lower than normal. Hoopman is working on Covid related contingency plans.

7. Project Updates:

- a. Marina Breakwell/Seawall Project: MSA continues to work on the plan specifications.
- b. Bayfield & Ashland County Regional Housing Study: The housing survey will be sent out soon. Additionally, the Chequamegon Bay Community has been selected as a Pilot Community for the WHEDA Rural Affordable Workforce Housing Initiative.
- c. Parks and Recreation: Big Ravine and Bayfield Area Trails and Waterfront Walk updates were given. Lots of work has ensued in the Big Ravine. Thank you, Kate and team!
- d. Green Infrastructure: Nothing new to report.

8. Mayor’s Report: Spread kindness and be considerate. Stay healthy and safe. Now that the tourist season is over, we still need to be careful and not let our guards down.

File Reports from Committees, Commission & Boards:

BRB: Minutes of September 15, 2020

Covid-19: Minutes of October 19, 2020

Fire Department: Minutes of September 14 and October 5, 2020

Greater Bayfield WWTP: Minutes of October 8, 2020

Harbor: Minutes of October 5, 2020

Library: Minutes of August 28 and September 23, 2020

Parking: Minutes of September 24, 2020

Parks and Rec.: Minutes of October 1, 2020

Planning: Minutes of September 22, 2020

Police Department: September 2020 Report

Public Works: Minutes of September 16 and October 20, 2020

Burkel/Cirillo moved to place the above noted minutes on file. Discussion ensued. The City is promoting for a safe Halloween. Mike Kinnee and Genevieve Johnson were acknowledged and thanked for their generous donation to the Trails Project. The Parking Committee had a successful first meeting. Carried.

Correspondence: Sept. 20 – Coverage Changes & Additions to LWMMI Insurance Policy
Informational, no action required.

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

Bryan/Burkel moved to place all Treasurer's Reports on file. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Cirillo, Bryan, Burkel and Carrier – yes.

Next Mtgs. November 10 and December 16, 2020

Adjournment: Bryan/Burkel made a motion to adjourn. Carried. (6:50 p.m.)

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk