

# City of Bayfield Common Council Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Bayfield City Hall, 125 South First Street, Bayfield, WI 54814 \* 715-779-5712

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**Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Ringberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Bayfield City Hall followed roll call:

**Present:** Beagan, Bryan, Burkel, Carrier and Mayor Ringberg

**Staff:** Police Chief, PWD, Treasurer, Clerk, GBWWTP Operator, W/S Operator and Office/Utility Clerk

**Others:** Paul Swansen, Kate Kitchell, Kylie Vadnais, Mollie Carrier, Annalisa Bermel, Grace Hogan, Linda Georgeson, George Hoff, and Nancy Trapp

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

## Public Comment and Suggestions from Persons Present

- Nancy Trapp compassionately asked the Council to consider revoking the Apple Festival Permit due to the rise in Covid cases in our community for the safety of our elders and children.
- Kylie Vadnais, Grace Hogan, and Linda Georgeson spoke in favor of the Parks and Recreation Committee's Playground Replacement initiatives.

**Discussion and Identification of Items for Future Agendas:** None.

**Review/Approve the Common Council minutes of August 18, 2021:** Bryan/Beagan made a motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021, as presented. Carried.

## Agenda

### 1. 2021 Apple Festival Updates / Covid Plans

The Council received written information regarding the current modifications to the Apple Festival made by the Chamber. The Council is trusting the Chamber to continue making the best decisions possible regarding the festival and feel they cannot revoke the permit when the event is only two weeks away.

### 2. Property Purchase Requests

- **Bayfield School – Block 28, Lots 4-10**

At the last meeting both the Public Works Committee and Plan Commission provided the Council with a different idea of what should be done with the property, trade or sell. They were asked by the Council to reconsider the request again at their next meetings. Both the Plan Commission and Public Works Committee did not change their positions. The Plan Commission thought selling the property could be considered and the Public Works Committee felt a trade was better. The Council expressed their desire to support the school. Carrier also mentioned he is hoping for a long-term cooperative arrangement wherein City Hall might be able to be incorporated onto their property/grounds.

Burkel/Bryan made a motion to offer to trade property, for an equal, lot for lot trade, the City would receive Lots 6-10 and Lots 18-19 which is a total of 7 lots and both parties would retain first right of refusal if either party decides to sell the property acquired. The City would continue to allow the District to use the lots for an athletic field. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Bryan, Burkel and Carrier – yes.

- **WR Stephens – Block 108, Lots 13-15**

The Council received a written letter from Mr. Stephens explaining why he would like the property, and which included a proposed purchase price. A motion was made by Bryan, seconded by Carrier to request Mr. Stephens to provide a market appraisal at his expense to verify the purchase price offered. Once received, they agreed to further discuss his offer. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2021.

**3. Room Tax Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

Informational, no action required. Bryan questioned the non-taxable data. Johnston reminded the Council about the marketplace payments not matching the rental reports received. With the new state laws, data has not reconciled and there is no way to get more information from the marketplace providers. The good news, room tax is up again this quarter.

**4. Bayfield City Hall Report**

The Plan Commission provided a written report in response to the Bayfield City Hall Analysis requested by the Council on March 31, 2021. A considerable amount of discussion ensued with no clear path forward.

- Some feel it is best to sell this valuable property, but others questioned where would we go?
- Questions ensued about what requirements we need to follow since it's a historical structure?
- The report shows some life/safety issues? Should they be fixed? Why fix if the City is considering making a move?
- The facility is not handicap accessible and should be.
- Where does this project fall within the City's priorities?
- Should the City slow down, in order to get more community support? Should they hire an outside Planner?
- The Mayor said he could add a section about the state of City Hall in his letter to the community.
- Other properties to consider include the DNR, Galazen's, and Bodin's? It was questioned why we'd leave one valuable piece of property for another?
- How much is the City Hall Property currently worth? Bryan indicated he would get a figure from a relator friend and report back.
- Hoopman noted the City is not following our own historic preservation guidelines with regard to the maintenance of historic structures.

**5. Resolution #587 – City of Bayfield 2022 Wages and Wage Review Update**

Staff provided a request for wage increases in certain positions where wage disparities were found. The Council indicated two months ago they were willing to review these suggestions. The Mayor noted he felt the requests were valid and justified and recommended the Council move forward with Resolution #587 as presented. Burkel agreed and made a motion to adopt Resolution #587 as presented. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Bryan/Carrier moved to amend the wages approving an across the board 3% wage increase in 2022 except for the Seasonal Laborers who would be given \$13.75/hr. Discussion ensued.

Generally, a majority of the Councilors felt the requests were not warranted as presented. The Mayor noted if the Council wanted more information, they should vote the motion down. Motion passed by roll call vote as follows: Burkel-no, Carrier, Beagan, and Bryan – yes.

**6. Resolution #588 – ARPA Funding Statement of Use**

Bryan/Beagan moved to approve Resolution #588 as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier, Beagan, Bryan and Burkel – yes.

- 7. Resolution #589 – Bayfield Fire Department Apple Festival Fundraiser Authorization**  
Burkel/Carrier made a motion to approve Resolution #589 supporting the Fire Department’s Fundraiser. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Bryan, Burkel and Carrier – yes.
- 8. Resolution #590 – Seeking exemption from the Bayfield County Library Levy**  
Burkel/Carrier made a motion adopting Resolution #590 as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Bryan, Burkel, Carrier and Beagan – yes.
- 9. Resolution #591 – Supporting a grant application to the WI DNR for funding to update the City’s Tree Inventory:** Bryan/Beagan made a motion to adopt Resolution #591 as presented. Discussion about the City’s 2022 contribution toward the project. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Burkel, Carrier, Beagan and Bryan – yes.
- 10. Proclamation – Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12, 2021**  
Beagan/Burkel made a motion applauding the Mayor’s Proclamation and the awareness of Indigenous People: especially those who are our neighbors, who live in our community, and who are partners. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier, Beagan, Bryan and Burkel – yes.
- 11. Proclamation – Energy Efficiency Day, October 15, 2021**  
Carrier/Bryan moved to approve the Mayor’s Energy Efficiency Day Proclamation as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Bryan, Burkel and Carrier – yes.
- 12. Bayfield County Redistricting Plans / Letter from Mayor Ringberg and Chairman Gordon**  
The Council was informed by Town of Russell Clerk Dave Good, the Bayfield County Redistricting Committee recommended a significant change to our supervisory lines and the Town and City of Bayfield are no longer in one supervisory district. The two communities sent a letter of concern to the Committee. There is a public hearing on September 21 at 6 p.m.
- 13. Appointments/Resignations:** Bryan/Carrier moved to approve the appointment of Colleen Beagan to BRB Recycling, Cemetery, CDBG, Fire Protection, Pavilion, Plan Commission and BART and Susan Hedman to the Plan Commission. Carried.
- 14. Police Department: Hiring of a Police Chief and Officer:**  
Chief Fangman recommended the hiring of Mathew Ladwig as Chief once he retires. Discussion ensued. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Bryan, Burkel, Carrier and Beagan – yes.
- 15. Project Updates:**

  - a. Apostle Islands Marina Project: Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> Start Date, Construction Loan**  
Carrier/Bryan moved to approve the quote from Bremer Bank for a \$3,000,000 short term construction loan; no closing fees and the interest rate is 1.69%. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Burkel, Carrier, Beagan and Bryan – yes.
  - b. Parks and Recreation Big Ravine Trail:** The school is hosting a ribbon cutting for the new trail on Friday, at 1:30 p.m. Kate Kitchell also let the Council know that two City WCMG Projects have been highlighted in their annual report.
  - c. Seal Coat Project:** Delayed until 2022.  
Bryan/Carrier moved to approve carrying forward the Seal Coat Funds to 2022. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier, Beagan, Bryan and Burkel – yes.

**d. Election Equipment Replacement:** The City is on track to replace our Election Equipment as required and budgeted in 2021.

**16. Mayor's Report:** The Mayor gave a verbal report and noted to the Council that not every item requires input from others, our City Employees do a great job, and are full of information.

**File Reports from Committees, Commission & Boards**

**Architectural Review Board:** Minutes of August 23, 2021

**Harbor:** Minutes of September 7, 2021

**Library:** Minutes of July 28, 2021

**Parks and Rec.:** Minutes of August 26 and September 2, 2021,  
Playgrounds Presentation (separate attachment), Playgrounds Subcommittee Designation & Delegation

**Planning:** Minutes of August 24, 2021

**Police Department:** August 2021 Report

**Public Works:** Minutes of July 14, 2021

**Scenic By-Way:** Invitation

**Tree Board:** Minutes of August 30, 2021

The Council thanked the Parks and Recreation Committee and Mollie Carrier for their "Creating a New Future for Bayfield Kids" Proposal which was well done. Kate Kitchell, Parks and Recreation Chair explained this project would be done at no cost to the City; fundraisers and grants would be pursued by them. Bryan/Beagan moved to approve the delegation of the Playgrounds Subcommittee with the understanding they would be working on plans to replace both Cooper Hill and the East Dock Park. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Bryan, Burkel and Carrier – yes.

Carrier/Beagan moved to place the above minutes and reports on file. Carried.

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

Bryan/Carrier moved to accept and place on file the August Treasurer's Reports as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Bryan, Burkel, Carrier and Beagan – yes.

**Next Mtgs:** October 20 and November 17, 2021

**Adjournment:** Burkel/Bryan made a motion to adjourn. (7:44 p.m.) Carried.

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk