

# City of Bayfield Common Council

## Minutes of Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 5:00 pm

---

### **Call to Order – Roll Call – Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Ringberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Bayfield City Hall.

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

**City of Bayfield Staff:** Clerk Hoopman, Treasurer Johnston, Librarian Weber, Chief Ladwig, Operators Pearson and Burg, Laborer Bainbridge, PWD Kovachevich

**Others:** Bill Bland, Jenna Gallagher, and Craig Skaaden

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

### **Public Comment and Suggestions from Persons Present on Agenda Items:**

Mr. Bland commented on the Harbor Budget specifically their Capital Improvements and suggested they needed further scrutiny. How will the future borrowing affect the City's Budget and are they wise investments?

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

### **Review/Approve the Common Council's Regular Minutes of August 15 and September 21, 2022:**

Dougherty/Bryan made a motion to approve the Council minutes from the previous meetings as presented. Carried.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. 2023 Budget and CIP's**

The Council began by getting an understanding of the changes made between Proposal #1 and balance budget Proposal #2.

Discussion ensued on the following subjects:

- Fire Department Capital Improvement Requests
- Mini-backhoe Capital Improvement Request (Shared Equipment).
- Harbor contribution to the City. Chairman Dougherty informed the Council he would formally ask the Harbor Commission to give \$40,000 more in 2023. The idea was presented at the last meeting but was not an agenda item so it could not be acted on.
- BART Contribution. Councilor Bryan questioned why the City of Bayfield's contribution is the same as other entities when our population is so low. We are paying more than our fair share. Bryan made a motion to reduce our contribution to \$5700 which would be in line with other communities on a per capita basis. Motion died for lack of a second. A majority of the Council was in favor of revisiting the Charter for fairness. The Mayor will write a letter to BART asking for a copy of the Charter and for a better understanding on why an equal split is in place. It was also noted that it feels like a double taxation due to the County's contribution. BART Representative Beagan is not in favor of requesting any changes.
- The Harbor Commission is planning to implement a \$2.00/passenger tariff fee in 2023. A revenue line item has been added accordingly. VOC has requested to come three times in 2023 and the 2022 rate was \$10,000/visit; the net revenue is approximately 60%.
- This budget includes funds for "maintenance only" assessment services. A revaluation has not been done since 2006, but due to the significant cost, it was not included in this budget. We are in compliance with the state.
- The idea of charging for fire inspections and fires was mentioned as a possible revenue source.
- Shared Revenue is determined based on a formula that includes property values, population, and the utilities we serve. It is not likely to increase any time soon which seems unfair in comparison to the services we offer.

- The Parking Consultant Proposal is supported by Dougherty and Beagan. Carrier asked if it could be renegotiated due to the amount of work already done. Hoopman asked if the Council had intentions to notify the public? Will you be asking them about paid parking or telling them it was happening. It was felt this was covered in the proposal with the public engagement outlined. Beagan and Carrier noted this is a priority for 2023. Treasurer Johnston expressed concern about the timing and when the Council expected that paid parking could be put in place.
  - Dougherty /Carrier moved to increase the parking ticket fee to \$120.00. A friendly amendment was made to reduce the rate to \$50.00. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Bryan, Carrier, and Dougherty – yes. Discussion ensued. The idea to raise the rate to cover actual costs was valid, but Hoopman noted it could have the opposite effect. Officers will be unlikely to write a citation due to the time it takes dealing with the disgruntled recipients. The Mayor vetoed this motion.
  - Bryan/Dougherty made a motion to approve a fee of \$10.00/day for parking in the City’s parking lots as defined by the Public Works Department. Carrier explained doing paid parking in the City’s lots, prior to City wide parking program was not supported by the Parking Committee. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Bryan-yes, Carrier-no, Dougherty-yes, and Beagan – yes.
- The EMS increase covers people, drugs, call times, and gas.
  - Bryan/Dougherty made a motion to make the following changes to Budget Proposal #2:
    - Remove \$5000 Police Vehicle Savings
    - Eliminate \$11,500 in CIPs from the Parks and Recreation Request.
    - Keep the mini-backhoe and 10<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction in.
    - The borrowing line items would be reduced by these amounts.
 Carried by voice vote.

Frustration was expressed about the budget process and how these small cuts were not amounting to much. The discussion of referendum ensued. Hoopman noted if a referendum is not pursued, much larger cuts need to be made to remain sustainable. This likely equates to jobs and is genuinely concerning to the employees.

- Dougherty/Bryan motioned to approve a flat wage increase of 9% for all City of Bayfield Employees. Carrier and Beagan noted they were in favor of a 5% increase and did not feel they could explain to residents why such a significant increase would be warranted especially with the current budget issues. Carrier also noted he would like to see a report showing the job and benefits comparisons of others. Dougherty, Bryan, and Mayor Ringberg noted they want to support our employees and they appreciate the excellent work they do. The Mayor noted that if anyone can help get us through these tough times, it is them. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier-no, Dougherty-yes, Beagan-no, Bryan – yes. Due to a tie, the Mayor vote. He voted yes.

## 2. Resolution #602 – John Deere Backhoe Borrowing

Bryan/Carrier moved to approve Resolution #602 as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Dougherty, Beagan, Bryan and Carrier – yes.

## 3. Schedule next Meeting(s):

Regular Meeting – Monday, October 17, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Budget Public Hearing and Regular Meeting – Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Bryan/Beagan moved to adjourn. Carried. (7:42 p.m.)

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk