

# City of Bayfield Common Council

## Minutes of March 20, 2024

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

Mayor Ringberg called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Bland, Carrier, Cornelius, Dougherty, and Mayor Ringberg

**Staff:** PWD Kovachevich, Clerk/ZA Hoopman, Laborer Bainbridge, Library Director Weber, Office Amin. Weeks, Treasurer Johnston, Chief Novak, GBWWTP Op. Burg

**Others:** Diane Fizell, Michael Radtke, Craig Skaaden, Erik Gruber, and Kylie Vadnais

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

**Public Comment and Suggestions from Persons Present on Agenda Items:** Michael Radtke read a letter to the Council concerning the residency requirement of mayoral candidacy of Mr. Brian Fehr.

Eric Gruber said he heard the agenda for yesterday's meeting was posted incorrectly and it did not provide proper notification to the public on what would be discussed. Clerk Hoopman affirmed the agenda was properly posted.

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

**Review/Approve the Common Council's Minutes of February 21 and March 5, 2024:** Bland/Cornelius made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Carried.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau – Sidewalk Sale Request, May 17-18, 2024**

Dougherty/Bland moved to approve the sidewalk sale request as presented. Carried.

**2. Appointments/Resignations:** Cornelius/Bland made a motion to accept with regret the resignation from Rob Reimer, ARB and to accept the Mayor's appointment of Kevon Dietel to the Tree Board. Carried.

#### **3. Police Department - Personnel and Operations**

Chief Novak provided the Council with an update on the hiring and recruitment of a new police officer. He asked the Council to consider three options:

1. Change Employee Policy 205 – Introductory Period to allow the Mayor and Department Supervisor authority to require, or waive the wage reduction.
2. Grant permission to officers to take home their squads
3. A hybrid of Option #1 and #2.

Councilors agreed with these options and noted the highest priority is to recruit. Councilor Dougherty asked the Council for a broader acknowledgment on the impacts of this to other departments and the employees within.

Dougherty/Carrier made a motion allowing the Chief to operate within the confines of his 2024 Budget and to pursue hiring an officer at the rate of \$34.09/hr. with the caveat the Council recognizes staff retention is a huge priority and they need to consider true upping the staff as a whole. Discussion. Chief Novak explained a second motion may be needed to approve proposed policy #205. Both Dougherty and Carrier withdrew their motion.

Cornelius/Dougherty made a motion to approve the proposed policy changes to Policy 205 as presented. Discussion ensued on trueing up other employees and just focusing on hiring a much needed police officer. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Bland, Carrier, Cornelius, and Dougherty – yes.

#### **4. Public Works Department – Water and Sewer Operator Hiring:**

Councilor Dougherty informed the Council the Public Works Committee accepted with regret Josh Pearson’s letter of resignation, and to repost the position for PWD. They spoke to PWD Kovachevich about possible staying longer, but that has not been solidified. The reason to post would be to recruit someone with the water and sewer license needed. Additionally, Jacob Dickey was hired as the Water and Sewer Operator. Mike Burg has moved into the GBWWTP Operator position.

#### **5. Project Updates:**

- **Harbor – Bayfield City Dock Finger Pier Project:** The Council was informed the Harbor Commission entered into an agreement with AMI Consulting Engineers for Phases 1-3. A copy of the agreement was included in the packet for reference.
- **Harbor - Underground Storage Tank Replacement Projects Bid/Award:** The Council was informed the Harbor Commission accepted the bid from Pump and Meter Service Inc. in the amount of \$136,501.16. A copy of the bid summary was included in the packet for reference.
- **Playgrounds - East Dock Park Project, proposed RFP:** Dougherty/Carrier made a motion to approve the RFP as presented and thanked the Playgrounds committee for getting input and making amendments. Bland asked for clarification on the use of Playground donations and if the use of those funds could/should be used for consulting purposes rather than play equipment. The motion was amended to include; with the stipulation private funding donations be excluded and they are maintained for future equipment purchases. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier, Cornelius, Dougherty, and Bland – yes.
- **Public Works - Manypenny Project – Street, Water & Sewer:** Nothing new to report. Still waiting to see if we qualified for grant funding.
- **Planning – Wayfinding:** Councilor Bland provided an update and noted the work being done by Durfey to purchase the signs.
- **Planning - Zoning Code Rewrite:** The Mayor suggested he would like to put work off until after the reorganizational meeting and just focus on completing the Wayfinding Project.

#### **6. Mayor’s Report:**

The Mayor thanked the staff and council for the open conversation yesterday. He is planning to provide the information received from Spano to the new administration and is hopeful it can help to create a healthier work environment for all.

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

**Ambulance:** Minutes of January 17, 2024

**Architectural Review Board:** Minutes of February 19, 2024

**Harbor:** Minutes of March 4 and 14th, 2024, and the 2023 Annual Report

**Library:** Minutes of February 21, 2024, and Annual Report

**Parks and Rec.:** Minutes of March 7, 2024

**Planning:** Minutes of February 19 and 27, ad March 6, 2024

**Police Department:** February 2024 Reports

**Public Works:** Minutes of February 20, 2024

**Tree Board:** Minutes of February 22, 2024

Dougherty/Cornelius moved to approve the minutes listed above in a block format. Councilor Bland thanked the Harbor Commission for providing the Annual Report. Carried.

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

Bland/Dougherty moved to approve the February Treasurer's Reports as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Cornelius, Dougherty, Bland, and Carrier – yes.

**Next Mtg:**

- Tuesday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. Reorganizational Meeting
- Tuesday, May 14, 4-6 p.m. Open Book, 6 p.m. Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, June 19, 5:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Dougherty/Carrier made a motion to adjourn. Carried. (5:51 p.m.)

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk