

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF WEYAUWEGA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Common Council of the City of Weyauwega was called to order at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, December 18, 2023 in the Weyauwega Municipal Building Council Chambers by Mayor Rich Luedke.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Rich Luedke, Bruce Goetsch, Chris Gunderson, Shani Appleby, and Rick Binley. Not Present: Dewey Stelzner and Kaley DuCoeur. Also present: City Treasurer Trina Herbst-Gutche, Lori Gosz, Frank Zabo, Kim Rogers, Richard Rupno, Pat Gorchals, and Lisa Trebatoski from Ehlers. The meeting began with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Luedke.

Motion Gunderson, second Goetsch, to approve the agenda with the note to correct council members listed under Public Property to Appleby, Goetsch & Stelzner. Motion carried with four “ayes”, zero “nays”.

Motion Gunderson, second Appleby, to approve the minutes of the Regular Common Council Meeting from November 20, 2023 and the Special Council from December 7, 2023. Motion carried with four “ayes”, zero “nays”.

Citizen Appearances: Library Representative, Frank Zabo, thanked Interim Administrator Lori Gosz for attending the Library Board meeting. The construction crew is finishing closing up the exterior and are starting to work on the inside. They are in the last stages of collecting monies and are in a good financial position.

Weyauwega Chamber President, Kim Rogers, thanked the Council for all it does for the Chamber. Updated on the Christmas parade. They served 180 cups of free hot chocolate from the Community Room that night. Council is invited to the Chamber Christmas Party on December 21st at the Brew Haus. Working on events for 2024. Looking for someone to chair Horse & Buggy Days.

Public Works Committee: *Motion Goetsch, second Gunderson, to approve the \$19,300.84 quote with Sabel Mechanical for the screen brush and wear plate replacement at the WWTP. Motion carried with four “ayes”, zero “nays”.*

Finance Committee: *Motion Binley, second Gunderson, to approve checks from 11/01/2023 through 11/30/2023 totaling \$276,522.09 and the monthly financial reports. A roll call vote was taken with “ayes” from Binley, Appleby, Goetsch, and Gunderson; “nays” none.*

Police, Fire, & Ambulance Committee: No Action for Council

Public Health & Relief (Ordinance) Committee: No Action for Council

Recreation Committee: No Action for Council

Public Property & Purchasing Committee: No Action for Council

Plan Commission: No Action for Council

New Business: *Motion Goetsch, second Binley, to approve an Operator License application Bradley Gruett, JD’s Café. Motion carried with four “ayes”, zero “nays”.*

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Motion Binley, second Goetsch, to approve Resolution #660 – A Resolution to Appoint Election Inspectors for a two year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025. Motion carried with four “ayes”, zero “nays”.

2023 Sewer Rate Study by Ehlers: Lisa Trebatoski with Ehlers presented information on the sewer rate study that was done. They evaluate fiscal sustainability of the sewer utility looking at a 5 year history and projecting 10 years into the future. The last rate increase was done in 2017. The City does have adequate reserves to fund deficits and capital. Ehlers is recommending slight increase to the sewer rates in odd years over a 10 year period. With the first increase taking place in 2025. Will be using reserves for some capital projects but by doing the slight increases over 10 years will help to keep the reserves stable. Trebatoski also recommends moving to Phase 2 in 2024 to review the high strength industrial users with implementation in 2025. No action needed at this time.

2024 Preliminary Financing Plan by Ehlers: Trebatoski also went over the preliminary financing plan for the proposed Public Works facility. The existing debt will not fall off the books till 2037. Any additional debt added now would increase residents taxes. The City can only be at 5% of the equalized value is debt limit for General Obligation. We would be at 85% of the 5% limit if added general obligation bonds for the facility. Mayor and Council feels that the City needs to wait on the building of a new facility. Don’t want to squeeze the city too tight. Will look for grant opportunities. No action needed at this time.

2nd Lot Fire Protection Charge for Goetsch: Goetsch spoke on his intention to combine both of his lots into one to have one tax bill and one fire protection bill. Because his house is located in TIF District #4 and his additional lot is not he is not able to combine the parcels but does not want to pay for the additional fire protection charge. TIF District #4 closes in 2025 and he would be able to combine parcels at that time. Luedke suggested talking to the City Attorney. Trebatoski noted that the City could request to the PSC to amend the tariff to allow for the City to not charge adjacent parcels owned by the same property owner but would likely cause a full conventional rate case to be done which would cost the City a lot of money.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Luedke thanked everyone for working together to keep things running smoothly around the City.

The January 2024 Meeting Calendar was set.

Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Trina Herbst-Gutche
City Treasurer