

City of Bayfield Common Council

Minutes of Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 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 followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Beagan, Carrier, Dougherty, and Mayor Ringberg

Absent: Bryan

Staff: Clerk Hoopman, PWD Kovachevich, Chief Novak, Treasurer Johnston, Operator Pearson

Others: Lyn and Bill Cornelius, Liam Smith, Monica Temperly, Alex Torborg, Anne Adams, Nancy Sandstrom, Mary Brigh Ringberg, Bill Bland, Craig Skaaden, Eric Fredenberg and Diane Fizell. There were two additional adults and one child present.

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

Public Comment and Suggestions from Persons Present on Agenda Items:

Lyn Hoopman-Cornelius began by stating she felt the Council should have been present at the Public Input Session to listen to everyone and answer questions since they were the ones promoting paid parking. She commented on the referendum discussion from last month and asked the Council to be clear and open to the taxpayers going forward on where the money will be going. She said in listening to the discussion the \$43,000 being spent on paid parking should have gone to the PD. There is a disconnect when you're spending this kind of money and then noting you are considering laying off people.

Bill Cornelius said he was surprised to hear the Mayor say he has to decide which streets to plow and wonders who is going to get laid off. He's on the outside looking in and this is alarming.

Councilors Dougherty, Beagan and Mayor Ringberg all commented and noted such things as:

- The Financial Report shows a bleak outlook with regards to the City's Finances. Expenses are exceeding revenues.
- Goal is to try and find many revenue streams, not just one. We need recurring revenue.
- Council needs to be responsive to all residents.
- The input session was frustrating because of the constant interjections.
- The Council was encouraged to attend virtually due to space issues. All verified they listened and took notes.
- They believe paid parking will not "kill" Bayfield.
- The City has big issues and needs to pursue all avenues for revenue.
- Tourists use a lot of services the City supports.
- The Council was happy with Mr. Ferrin's performance, and felt hiring an outside service was beneficial to the process. The input session was a great starting point.
- Nobody believes the plan will be perfect from the start.
- The Council is looking forward to getting questions from Mr. Perrin that will be posted to encourage feedback.

Discussion and Identification of Items for Future Agendas: Short-Term Rentals

Review/Approve the Common Council's Regular Minutes of January 16 and 30, 2023: Dougherty/Carrier moved to approve the minutes. Carrier requested a change to item number 5 in the January 16, 2023 minutes to indicate he's in favor of an administrator; specifically, the Council/Manager form of government. Carried.

Agenda

1. City of Bayfield Parking Management Plan Implementation

The Mayor noted Robert Ferrin met with the Chamber this morning and overall, he gained a lot of insight into paid parking and the pain points. He will continue working on the plan to implement. Mr. Ferrin told the Mayor, paid parking does not kill towns.

Hoopman noted the following observations:

- Not all taxpayers are residents.
- It was unclear to those present at the Public Input Session what the Council's intentions were and what the next steps would be.
- The Parking Management plans provided on the City of Bayfield's Parking webpage are different.

2. Short-term Rentals: Postponed until a future meeting.

3. BART Charter – Amendment to include Price County: Beagan/Carrier moved to approve the Mayor's signature on the amendment to include Price County as a partner on the BART Charter. Discussion. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Beagan, Carrier and Dougherty-yes.

4. Referendum Information: The Council received information on referendums. Discussion ensued, but no action was taken or required. The Council remained divided on their interest to pursue. Starting work on the 2024 Budget was mentioned or utilizing the Financial Plan to continue forecasting into the future was suggested. Hoopman indicated both could be done if they provide the critical data needed.

5. 4th Qtr. Room Tax Report: Treasurer Johnston informed the Council we budgeted \$115,000 in Room Tax Revenue for the City and will end the year at \$127,000. Good news!

6. Project Updates:

- a. Courthouse Improvements Project:** The Contractor has begun work on the new LED lighting.
- b. Playground Replacement Project:** The subcommittee submitted a grant request for funding from WHEDA.
- c. Wayfinding:** Next steps are determining locations and number of signs needed.
- d. Zoning Code Rewrite**

7. Mayor's Report: The Mayor gave an update on the WHEDA Housing initiative and noted they would soon be determining the pilot project. He also reminded the Council he would be out of town for the next four weeks, but accessible by phone, e-mail, etc.

File Reports from Committees, Commission & Boards

Ambulance: Minutes of October 20, 2022

Architectural Review Board: Minutes of January 23, 2023

Fire Department: Minutes of January 2, 2023

Harbor: Minutes of February 6, 2023

Library: Minutes of January 18, 2023

Parks and Rec.: Minutes of February 9, 2023

Planning: Minutes of January 24 and February 8, 2023

Police Department: January 2023 Report

Public Works: Minutes of December 5, 2022

Tree Board: Minutes of January 25, 2023

Dougherty/Carrier moved to accept and place on file the minutes listed above. Discussion ensued on the Public Works minutes and the placement of a cell tower near the former soccer field in Bayfield. The Mayor then asked Chief Novak how his first month in office was going. Chief Novak said good, and then provided an update on his plans to try different recruiting methods to fill the open Police Officer position. Carried.

Correspondence: January 2, 2023 - Letter from Mary Lou and Pat Irvine: The Council was appreciative of the letter received.

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

Bryan/Dougherty made a motion to approve the January Financials as presented. Passed by roll call vote as follows: Carrier, Dougherty and Beagan – yes.

Next Mtg: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 5:30 p.m. / Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 5:30

Councilor Beagan invited the Council to attend the School's Free Open House dinner next Wednesday.

Adjournment: Bryan/Carrier made a motion to adjourn. Carried. (6:18 p.m.)

Minutes by Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk