

November 9, 2022

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Eagle River was called to order at 4:47PM by Mayor Jeff Hyslop.

Roll Call: Ron Kressin, Kim Schaffer, Diane Marquardt, Jerry Burkett. Also in attendance: Becky Bolte, Robin Ginner, Kristen Hanneman, Mike Adamovich, Rob Hom, Mike Sanborn. Chris Dobbs was present via zoom

A) 2023 Budget Workshop:

- i) 2023 Walter E Olson Memorial Library Budget Request: Laurie Stoegbauer and Kathy Patten from the Walter E Olson Memorial Library Board of Trustees presented the library budget request for 2023 showing a 13.26% increase from 2022. In 2022 the library request was granted with the Council advising them that the City of Eagle River will not continue to approve annual increases nearing 10%. After discussion on library employee retention causing the bulk of the large increase and the Council responding with levy limits concerns, the Council tabled the discussion until later in the meeting so Council had an opportunity to address all city budgetary items before deciding on the library request. Stoegbauer stated that if funds are not approved library hours may need to be cut.
- ii) Eagle River Union Airport: Airport Manager Rob Hom presented the 2023 Union Airport request in the amount of \$28,000 stating this request is unchanged from 2022. Hom reported the airport was able to bridge the inflation gap by increasing charges. Burkett stated that a report from a couple of years ago, had the Eagle River Union Airport bringing \$2,000,000 into the area every year. Hom reported Ken Anderson had tendered his resignation from the Airport Commission effective the end of November 2022. Burkett suggested approaching Dan Groskopf for filling the position of City of Eagle River representative on the airport commission. *Motion by Burkett, seconded by Kressin to approve the \$28,000 requested for 2023 for the Eagle River Union Airport. Carried on a roll call vote all.*
- iii) 2023 Employee Cost of Living wage increase: Ginner reported the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2023 is 8.7%. She reported pay increase numbers from other municipalities and school districts and found there was a large percentage spread in the COLA raises, ranging from no increase to upwards of 11%. Ginner presented City of Eagle River employee COLA at 5% city wide. Police Chief Dobbs requested a pay increase for the Law Enforcement Clerk/Office Manager position to be more in line with the County pay of similar position. *Motion by Kressin, seconded by Burkett to approve a city-wide employee wage increase of 5% and the Law Enforcement Clerk/PD Office Manager position a 10% wage increase. Carried on a roll call vote all.*
- iv) 2023 Security Health Insurance Quote for employee coverage: Bolte presented the Security Health Insurance quote for employee coverage for 2023 with a 12.5% increase from 2022. Bolte reported she had worked with insurance company to bring down quote from the original increase of 14.5%. Business Insurance Group had explained part of the increase is due to a high usage factor in 2022. After much discussion on the rising costs of health

insurance, Burkett asked if the City had looked into the State Health Insurance Plan. City HR manager/Treasurer stated that the State Health Insurance options listed with WRS had limited options in Vilas County and would not recommend. Vilas County HR Director will be contacted for information on the Counties experience with the State Plan for 2024. *Motion by Burkett seconded by Schaffer to contract with Security Health Insurance for city employee health insurance coverage at a 2023 increase of 12.5% from 2022. Carried on a roll call vote all.*

- v) 2023 Ambulance Subsidy: The 2023 Aspirus ambulance subsidy of \$122,654 for the City of Eagle River was discussed. This is a 44.38% increase from 2022. The Aspirus budget values were questioned by all present, especially the revenue less deductions values. The option of the City taking on ambulance service was talked about with Burkett requesting speaking to those municipalities that provide their own ambulance services for information. Staffing was discussed as the biggest hurdle to internalize the service. Burkett reiterated that levy limits prevent the City from taxing to pay for increase. *Motion by Burkett to grudgingly approve the 2023 ambulance subsidy in the amount of \$122,654 although he has no idea how Aspirus came up with it and he's not happy but the City needs ambulance service in the future, seconded by Ron Kressin. Carried on a roll call vote all.*
- vi) 2023 Donations: Mayor Hyslop stated that, with the 2023 budget increases, the \$5,000 discretionary spending for 2023 has to be cut, including the \$2,500 firework donation. Burkett stated no action on all donation requests. All existing requests will have rejection letter citing city budget constraints to be sent. Contractual contributions will not be affected as they are not discretionary donations.

Budget line items were reviewed page by page. Mayor Hyslop explained the change of chart of accounts, as it has been updated to align with the Wisconsin uniform chart of accounts and financial reporting on Form C. Changes have been made to payroll expenses to reflect union contract obligations for police deputies and Law Enforcement Clerk pay scale as discussed in agenda item A (iii). *Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Kressin to approve an increase of only 5% for the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library, totaling \$52,857. Carried on a roll call vote.* Kressin questioned boat patrol expense of \$1,000. It was removed as it was deemed that with changes that have been made, including having their own dock, it is no longer necessary. Wishlist of mini excavator, to be shared between DPW and ERLW, for ditching and brushing at an estimated cost of \$95,000. Burkett asked about mini excavator financing options, Hanneman to inquire on rates. Ginner reported that our debt ratio has come down to about 33%. Ginner also reported we will be looking at \$160,000 year end borrowing for 2022, payable 2023, with a borrowing resolution to be presented at one of the next Council meetings. Hyslop confirmed with Bolte that budget numbers comply with the 2023 Levy Limit and Expenditure Restraint program.

- vii) Scheduling of Public Budget Hearing: To comply with 15-day publishing requirements, the Budget Hearing is set for 4:45 on Monday December 5th.

B) Street Closing Permit – Northwoods Marching Band (NPHS Band) 11/13 and 12/11 to close Pleasure Island Road: *Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Schaffer to approve the Pleasure Island Road closure permit for 11/13 and 12/11 as presented. Carried all*

C) Adjourn to Closed Session according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercise responsibility.

i) City Administrator Contract 2023-2027.

Motion by Kressin, seconded by Burkett to adjourn to closed session according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c). Carried on a roll call vote.

Motion by Burkett, seconded by Schaffer to return to open session. Carried on a roll call vote.

Motion Schaffer, seconded by Marquardt, to accept the District Administrator employment contract for 2023-2027 as presented. Carried on a roll call vote.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Marquardt to adjourn at 6:12PM. Carried.

Becky J Bolte - Clerk