

November 8, 2023

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Eagle River was called to order at 5:00PM by Mayor Jeff Hyslop. The meeting was held till 5:00 to allow time for full Council to be present.

Roll Call: Ron Kressin, Kim Schaffer, Diane Marquardt. Jerry Burkett arrived at 5:10PM. Also in attendance: Becky Bolte, Robin Ginner, Cory Hoffmann, Mike Adamovich, Rob Hom, Chris Dobbs, Tony Sable, and Kyle Anderson.

I. 2024 Budget Workshop:

- Mayor Hyslop adjusted the order on the agenda to allow additional time for the full Council to be present.
- i) 2024 Ambulance Subsidy: The 2024 Aspirus ambulance subsidy of \$117,485 for the City of Eagle River was presented. The increase from 2023 was \$577. *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Kressin approve the 2024 ambulance subsidy in the amount of \$117,485. Carried on a roll call vote, Ayes: Schaffer, Kressin, Marquardt Nays: None.*
- g) 2024 MPIC Quote for Property/Liability Insurance: Bolte presented the 2024 quote for property/liability insurance, explaining the City had appraisals done in 2023 to bring replacement values to current. The 2024 citywide coverage quote was presented for \$65,970. The Auto and Workers Compensation quotes have not been received by the city as of the meeting date. *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Marquardt to approve the MPIC property and liability insurance quote as presented. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*
- f) 2024 Security Health Insurance Quote for employee coverage: The 2024 Security Health Plan renewal quote was presented with 1.6 % increase. *Motion by Burkett 2nd by Kressin approve renewal contract with Security Health Insurance for city employee health insurance coverage at a 2024 increase of 1.6% from 2023. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*
- a) 2024 Walter E Olson Memorial Library Budget Request: Ginner presented the \$64,170.93 budget request for 2024 from the Walter E Olson Memorial Library, noting it was a 21.4% increase from 2023. Ginner noted the large increases in consecutive previous years. Ginner reported Attorney Garbowicz advised that the City could limit the increase to 5%, which would be a total of \$55,000. Library Foundation member Chris Oatman, living on E Bass Lake Rd, spoke on his support for the library and the services and programs they provide. Oatman stressed the importance of the relationship between the City and the Library. There was discussion on the formula used in the library agreement. Deb Brown asked if resident tracking was being done correctly with physical addresses versus applying all 54521 zip codes to the City of Eagle River, with City of Eagle River Library Representative, Kathy Patten, assuring that it was accurate. Burkett stressed that he was 1000% pro library but explained in detail all the budgetary reasons why the City cannot financially support the large increases. Concern over City Administrator website blog response to the proposed library increase was expressed by a resident. More discussion on how the formula could be rewritten in the future. *Motion was made by Burkett, 2nd by Kressin to approve 50% of the increase amount for 2024, resulting in an approved request of \$58,512.70. Carried on a roll call vote, Ayes: Burkett, Kressin, Marquardt Nays: Schaffer*

b) 2025 City-wide revaluation requirement discussion with Mark Brown – Associated Appraisals: Bolte advised that the City had received a first notice on non-compliance for assessment values and the requirement for the City to stay in compliance to avoid a state ordered assessment revaluation. Mark Brown, President of Associated Appraisal Consultants was available via zoom as our Assessor firm. He presented multiple options ranging from interim market updates to full revaluations. Burkett and Schaffer both spoke on the current climate of sales and prices in the area. After listening to the Councils take on the current market, Brown recommended the Interim Market Update was the best fit for the situation, providing a price quote of \$23,000 plus mailing estimates of \$1,900. *Motion by Kressin, 2nd by Marquardt to proceed with an Interim Market Update revaluation for 2024 with Associated Appraisals for a total contract price for 2024 of \$35,300, which included the IMU, mailings and current maintenance contract. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

c) 2024 ULERCLC Budget Request of \$1,443.39: The Unified Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission supplied a 2024 budget request for the Eagle River portion of the joint agreement. *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Kressin to approve ULERCLC 2024 budget request of \$1,443.39. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

d) Eagle River Union Airport: Airport Manager Rob Hom presented the 2024 Union Airport request in the amount of \$30,000, an increase of \$2,000 from 2023. Discussion on the positive economic impact the airport has in the area. *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Kressin to approve the 2024 budget request of \$30,000 for the Eagle River Union Airport. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

e) 2024 Employee Cost of Living wage increase: Ginner reported the August 2023 Consumer Price Index is at 5.4% and Energy and Housing is at 7% and is recommending a 5% increase for all employees. Burkett added the County implemented at 6.2% raise. Discussion on the importance of retaining employees. *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd Kressin to approve a city-wide employee wage increase of 5%. Carried on a roll call vote all.*

i) Mayor and Common Council review of proposed 2024 budget document: Bolte presented the budget summary page with explanations of two separate ways of balancing the budget. BAIRD financial services compiled a couple of options, using the golf course revenue and expenses, or using a transfer from reserves and borrowing. Budget line items were reviewed page by page. After much discussion, *Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Kressin to proceed with the Baird budget option using a transfer from the reserves and borrowing \$145,000. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

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.

- a) Contract renewal for Police Chief
- b) Contract extension/renegotiation for Golf Pro
- c) Contract amendment for Golf Course Superintendent

d) Annual performance bonus(es) for Golf Course employees

Motion by Kressin, seconded by Burkett to adjourn to closed session at 7:10PM 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 at 8:15PM. Carried on a roll call vote.

Motion by Burkett, seconded by Kressin to approve annual performance bonuses for golf course employees as follows: \$1,950 for Grounds Crew employees, as determined and awarded by Golf Course Superintendent, \$7,500 for Golf Course Superintendent, and a \$2,362.60 additional bonus for Golf Pro, all to be made payable at the last paycheck of 2023. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Marquardt to adjourn at 8:25PM. Carried.

Becky J Bolte - Clerk