



# COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM  
303 Mansion Street Mauston, WI

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Mauston Common Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. Mayor Dennis Nielsen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members present were Donna McGinley, Leanna Hagen, Jim Allaby, Rick Noe, and Darryl Teske. Also present were Mayor Dennis Nielsen, City Administrator Daron Haugh, Police Chief Mike Zilisch, and Deputy Clerk Nicole Lyddy.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nielsen led the pledge.

## 3. Minutes

- a. Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Hoilien to approve minutes of January 9, 2024. Motion carried.

## 4. Citizens' Address to the Council

Bob Bollig from Mauston spoke about the homeless people who are living in their vehicles during these winter months.

## 5. Reports from Committees, Boards, and Commissions

- a. Christenson gave the Hatch Library yearly report to the council stating that the use of the library services has risen from last year.

## 6. Personnel Committee Report

- a. Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Teske to approve the revising of the Administrative Assistant job description and post instead of the Deputy Treasurer position. Motion carried.

## 7. Public Works Committee Report

- a. Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Allaby to approve the MSA contract for the Waste Water Treatment Facility project in the amount of project for \$567,750. Motion carried.
- b. Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Hoilien to approve the MSA agreement for the 2024 Clean Water Fund Administration for a total of \$42,500. Motion carried.
- c. **Director of Public Works Report**  
Nelson said that they have been working on clearing the roads after the storm and that the warm weather helps.

## 8. Municipal Court Annual Report

- a. Judge Taake gave his report indicating that Court Clerk Wolff has done a great job streamlining the court process.

## **9. Finance and Purchasing Committee Report**

- a. Motion made by Teske, Seconded by Noe to approve the Vouchers for \$2,123,425.19. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
- b. Motion made by Teske, Seconded by Noe to approve the new Public Works truck not to exceed the amount of \$69,050.50. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
- c. Motion made by Teske, Seconded by Hoilien to approve both match fund petitions for \$500 and \$1,500. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

## **10. Police December Report**

- a. Zilisch gave his December 2023 report and answered any questions.

## **11. City Council Report**

Teske mentioned that G.O.L.D. did a good job with the Lake Decorah Fishing Tournament on Saturday, January 20. He also mentioned the great work the Public Works Department did during our snow emergency.

## **12. Mayor's Report**

- a. Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Ferguson to approve Todd Galbrecht to the Parks Commission. Motion carried.
- b. Mayor Nielsen emphasized that the decision to declare a snow emergency on January 12 was not decided lightly, underscored by extensive preparations carried out by both the police department and public works. Implementation took effect at noon on January 12, with paramount consideration for the safety of citizens and City employees tasked with snow clearing. Chief Zilisch, given the floor by the Mayor, reported that officers conducted a proactive door-to-door campaign before noon on January 12, urging residents with vehicles on the road to relocate them. Regrettably, 11 vehicles had to be towed due to the unavailability of the owners. Mayor Nielsen extended gratitude to the Public Works and the Police Department personnel for their commendable efforts throughout this emergency.

## **13. City Administrator's Report**

- a. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**14. Closed Session**

- a. Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Teske to go into **closed session** pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(e) and (g) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, investing public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and also conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved regarding the the Sale of City Land and the Walk Bridge. Attorney Richards Bria by phone and Police Chief Zilisch attended the closed session. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Moved into Closed Session at 7:00 pm.

**15. Reconvene in Open Session**

Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Teske to go into open session. Motion carried. Moved into open at 7:44 pm.

**16. Discussion and Action as a Result of Closed Session Matters**

Motion made by Noe, Seconded by Hoilien to have the Administrator and Mayor sign the Vacant Land Offer to Purchase with Horizon Development Group. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**17. Adjourn**

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Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date