

CITY OF MENASHA
COMMON COUNCIL
100 MAIN STREET
MAY 2, 2022
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Merkes at 6:02 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed to recognize Kenneth Stumpf, Medal of Honor recipient who recently passed away.

D. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ald. Tom Grade, Ted Grade, Ropella, Nichols, Eisenach, Sevenich, Hammond, Schmidt

ALSO PRESENT: PC Styka, FC Kloehn, CDD Schroeder, DPW Jungwirth, DDMO Brown, FD Sassman, LD Kopetsky, PHD Hutter, PRD Sackett, CA/HRD Captain, Mayor Merkes, Clerk Krautkramer

E. PUBLIC HEARING

F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF/CONSULTANTS

1. Clerk Krautkramer - the following minutes and communications have been received and placed on file:

Minutes to receive:

- a. Administration Committee, 4/19/22
- b. Board of Public Works, 4/19/22
- c. Landmarks Commission, 4/13/22
- d. Library Board, 3/29/22
- e. Neenah-Menasha Joint Fire Commission, 1/26/22
- f. Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission, 3/22/22
- g. Parks and Recreation Board, 3/15/22 & 4/27/22
- h. Personnel Committee, 4/19/22
- i. Sustainability Board, 3/24/22 & 4/28/22
- j. Water and Light Commission, 3/23/22

Communications:

- k. COVID-19 Update
- l. 2021 Health Department Annual Report
- m. Downtown Walk-About – Menasha Historical Society and Landmarks Commission
- n. Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Proclamation
- o. County Road P (Valley Road and Racine Road) Construction Project Archaeological and Historical Surveys

Moved by Ald. Sevenich seconded by Ald. Ted Grade to approve minutes and communications a-o.

Motion carried on voice vote.

General discussion ensued on Communication m. Downtown Walk-About – Menasha Historical Society and Landmarks Commission.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE CITY

(five (5) minute time limit for each person)

Roger Kanitz, 516 River Way, Menasha; commented on R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-7.

Kyle Coenen, 705 1st Street, Menasha; commented on R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-7.

Israel Del Toro, 826 East South Street, Appleton; commented on R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-7.

Garrett Lemons, 728 Lincoln Street, Menasha; commented on the quarry, Bucklin’s Tree Service noise, noise complaints, snow removal, and code enforcement.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

(Prior to voting on the Consent Agenda, items on the Consent Agenda may be removed at the request of any Alderman and place immediately following action on the Consent Agenda. The procedures to follow for the Consent Agenda are: (a) removal of items from Consent Agenda; and (b) motion to approve the items from Consent Agenda.)

Minutes to approve:

1. Common Council, 4/19/22
2. New Common Council, 4/19/22

Moved by Ald. Sevenich seconded by Ald. Tom Grade to approve Consent Agenda item 1, Common Council, 4/19/22.

Motion carried on voice vote.

Ald. Ropella noted the fee was incorrectly written as \$150 in the New Common Council minutes of 4/19/22 and should be changed to \$200 per the original motion that was made.

Ald. Ted Grade noted that he did not vote “no” for the two motions made under item L.1 of the New Common Council minutes of 4/19/22.

Moved by Ald. Sevenich seconded by Ald. Schmidt to table the New Common Council minutes of 4/19/22 until the meeting of 5/16/22.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

J. ACTION ITEMS

1. Accounts payable and payroll for the term of 4/15/22 – 4/28/22 in the amount of \$2,374,991.56

Moved by Ald. Nichols seconded by Ald. Ted Grade to approve the accounts payable and payroll for the term of 4/15/22 – 4/28/22 in the amount of \$2,374,991.56.

Motion carried on roll call 8-0.

2. Accept and Spend Speed Enforcement Traffic Grant Funds (Summer 2022)

Moved by Ald. Nichols seconded by Ald. Ropella to authorize the Police Department to accept and spend the Summer 2022 Speed Enforcement Traffic Grant Funds.

Motion carried on roll call 8-0.

K. HELD OVER BUSINESS

L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. O-4-22 An Ordinance Amending Title 12, Chapter 1 of the Code Of Ordinances (Park Regulations) (Introduced by Ald. Ted Grade)

Moved by Ald. Ted Grade seconded by Ald. Ropella to approve O-4-22 An Ordinance Amending Title 12, Chapter 1 of the Code Of Ordinances (Park Regulations) stating Staff and the Parks Board recommend the Council approve Ordinance O-4-22, being an ordinance amending Title 12, Chapter 1 of the Code of Ordinances to allow for electric bicycles, electric scooters, electric personal assistive mobility devices and similar appurtenances on the trail systems.

Moved by Ald. Ted Grade second Ald. Schmidt to amend the original motion to add “except for authorized maintenance, emergency vehicles, electric bicycles, electric personal mobile devices, and electric scooters” to the first sentence of 12-1-1, Park Regulations, parent 10 Motorized Vehicles.

General discussion ensued on:

- Sec. 12-1-1 – Park Regulations
- Sec. 12-1-14 – Trails
- Motorized and electric vehicles on sidewalks
- Motorized vehicle restrictions
- Allowances on trails
- Authorized vehicles
- Motorized vehicle restrictions to paved areas

Staff commented on park regulations, motorized and electric vehicles, authorized and emergency vehicles, designated parking areas, and trail allowances.

Moved by Ald. Nichols seconded by Ald. Ropella to postpone O-4-22 An Ordinance Amending Title 12, Chapter 1 of the Code Of Ordinances (Park Regulations) until the Common Council meeting of May 16, 2022.

Motion carried on voice vote.

2. R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-6 (Introduced by Ald. Austin Hammond)

Moved by Ald. Hammond seconded by Ald. Nichols to approve R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-7 and changing any reference to section 8-1-6 to 8-1-7 throughout the resolution.

General discussion ensued on

- Environmental issues
- Opposition for “No Mow May”
- Pride in neighborhoods
- Code enforcement concerns
- Indigenous plants
- Gardening benefits
- Lawn chemicals
- Bee species

- Communication
- Outreach efforts
- “No Mow May” signage
- Benefits of “No Mow May”
- Surrounding communities disapproval
- Alternatives to “No Mow May”
- Lawn fertilization
- Grass clippings in the roadways
- Sustainability Board Discussions
- “No Mow May” Rules
- 1 year trial period
- After “No Mow May” Report
- Lawn cutting issues
- Education
- Noxious weed growing concerns
- Control period

Staff commented on the rules of “No Mow May”.

Motion failed on roll call 3-5.

Ald. Nichols, Hammond, and Tom Grade voted yes.

Ald. Eisenach, Sevenich, Schmidt, Ted Grade, Ropella voted no.

M. APPOINTMENTS

N. CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY

O. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

(five (5) minute time limit for each person)

Israel Del Toro, 826 East South Street, Appleton; commented on R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-7.

Rodger Kanitz, 516 Riverway, Menasha; commented on Menasha Library education events and the Sustainability Board’s educational efforts.

Kyle Coenen, 705 1st Street, Menasha; commented on R-13-22 A Resolution Recognizing May as “No Mow May” and Suspending the Enforcement of section 8-1-7.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ald. Schmidt seconded by Ald. Tom Grade to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

Motion carried on voice vote.

Haley Krautkramer
City Clerk