

**CITY OF CEDARBURG
COMMON COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 26, 2018**

CC20181126-1

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Monday, November 26, 2018, at City Hall, W63 N645 Washington Avenue, second floor, Council Chambers. Mayor O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present - Common Council: Mayor Mike O'Keefe, Council Members Dan von Bargen, Jack Arnett, Kristin Burkart, Rick Verhaalen, Garan Chivinski, Patricia Thome, Rod Galbraith

Also Present - City Administrator/Treasurer Christy Mertes, City Clerk Constance McHugh, Police Chief Tom Frank Director of Public Works and Engineering Tom Wiza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Mikko Hilvo, Library Director Linda Pierschalla, Assessor Cathy Timm, Forester Kevin Westphal, Public Works Superintendent Joel Bublitz, Parks Crewperson David Schwantes, City Attorney Michael Herbrand; interested citizens and news media

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

At Mayor O'Keefe's request, City Clerk McHugh verified that notice of this meeting was provided to the public by forwarding the agenda to the City's official newspaper, the *News Graphic*, to all news media and citizens who requested copies, and by posting in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings law. Citizens present were welcomed and encouraged to provide their input during the citizen comment portion of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Verhaalen suggested the word "not" be inserted in the last sentence of paragraph six on page 5 of the November 12, 2018 Council minutes. The sentence should read: As far as the levy, the City is going to have to get used to not borrowing for streets because it is the City's obligation to maintain the streets.

Council Member Arnett suggested the word "use" in paragraph six of page 9 of the November 12, 2018 Council minutes be changed to "assistance". The sentence should read: Council Member Arnett suggested the City do the preconstruction pruning with the assistance of the new grapple truck.

Motion made by Council Member Thome, seconded by Council Member Galbraith, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2018 meeting as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2018-21 LEVYING PROPERTY TAXES ON THE GENERAL, DEBT SERVICE, SPECIAL REVENUE, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

City Administrator/Treasurer Mertes said the following changes to the budget have been made since the last meeting:

- \$31,415 was added to the General Fund for one-third cost of a School District liaison officer (two-thirds intended to be funded by the Cedarburg School District);
- \$2,325 was added in the Capital Improvements budget for the lease-to-own grapple truck;
- Park improvements were reduced by \$11,000; park building roof replacements were moved to the 2020 Capital budget;
- Library impact fee use was increased by \$10,000 in Capital Improvements, which reduced the levy in Debt Service;
- Cable franchise fee revenue was increased by \$23,000 in the General Fund;
- The Contingency Reserve account in the General Fund was increased by \$30,000.

The changes resulted in a 4.9% increase in the tax levy and a \$0.28 increase in the tax rate. This equates to a \$77 increase on a home assessed at \$276,000.

Council Member Thome said she was surprised to learn that the \$2 per hour increase for the City Administrator/Treasurer, in addition to the 2% wage increase for all employees, is still in the budget. She said that while the salary for City Administrator/Treasurer Mertes is at a lower level compared to others in the area she is uncomfortable with the \$2 per hour increase based on a preliminary salary study done by Cedarburg Light and Water. She said the study has discrepancies and more work on the survey plans to be done next year.

City Administrator/Treasurer Mertes said the Light and Water study showed her salary to be \$10 less per hour than similar positions while a study done by the Wisconsin City/County Management Association shows her salary to be \$7 less per hour than similar positions. The amount of the increase for this in the General Fund budget is \$3,753. Her salary is 79% funded in the General Fund and 21% funded in the Water Recycling Center budget.

Council Member Arnett questioned why this discussion has not taken place at the Personnel Committee.

Council Member Thome said the Personnel Committee did discuss the salary survey. It was the consensus that the survey was preliminary in nature and the Committee needs to look at the broader picture in 2019.

Council Member Burkart said she agrees with Council Member Arnett that this should be discussed at a Personnel Committee meeting.

It was the consensus of the Council that Ordinance No. 2018-21 could be adopted as is with the understanding this matter will be discussed by the Personnel Committee in the future.

Motion made by Council Member von Barga, seconded by Council Member Thome, to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-21 levying property taxes on the General, Debt Service, Special Revenue, and Capital Improvement Funds for fiscal year 2019, with the understanding that the \$2 per hour salary increase for the City Administrator/Treasurer be reviewed at a future Personnel Committee meeting.

Council Member Arnett said he has been frustrated with the budget process this year. He has tried to come up with several thoughts and ideas, and believes he has failed in getting them over the goal line. He thanked staff and City Administrator/Treasurer Mertes for their work on the budget,

adding that it is hard to be stuck in the middle. He said the following are good things in the 2019 budget:

- The General Fund levy is down 2.9%;
- The City is not borrowing for road or capital improvements;
- The City is funding the increased debt service;
- The City will continue to provide excellent services to constituents.

Council Member Arnett said at the last Council meeting resident Alan Clapp was in attendance to explain he and his neighbors are concerned about dead ash trees in the conservancy. Later in the meeting the Council approved a \$12,800 contract for preconstruction pruning. He wonders if everyone involved knows that the contract was for full structural pruning of trees; not just raising the canopy for the construction equipment. The City owns equipment to prune street trees. The City will own a new \$190,000 grapple truck to remove trees. But the City does not have any equipment to get into the conservancy and needs to contract that out. In his opinion the \$12,800 should have gone to the conservancy. He said he understands there were concerns about snow, but there are five and one-half months to trim the trees on 3-4 blocks.

In terms of the liaison officer, Council Member Arnett said the City has five school buildings and is looking for one officer. Some Council Members have extensive law enforcement experience but some of their ideas were rejected. The School District is made up of five communities. He questioned if anyone asked the neighboring communities in the Cedarburg School District to contribute to the costs of an officer. If not, why not? If the School District uses part of its \$60 million from the recently passed referendum to fund 100% of this officer, then that cost is spread proportionally among all five communities that will benefit. He said he supports the idea of the officer but why should his neighbors pay a higher tax bill to lower the tax bill from someone in Mequon or Grafton. These communities should be asked to contribute.

Council Member Arnett said there are other things in the area of duplication of services and cooperation with adjoining towns that he has spoken about before:

- Raising the weight limit on 1,000 feet of road in the Town of Cedarburg would save taxpayers over \$50,000 per year at the treatment plant; yet their fully loaded salt truck travels on Washington Avenue contributing to more and more potholes.
- The Friends of the Library is paying for a strategic plan. Part of this plan should explore seeking a Joint Library Agreement with the Town of Cedarburg.
- Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on maintaining the Fire Station. The City dispatches to the Town of Cedarburg from that station. No money is received from the Town for maintenance reimbursement. The same is true for the Senior Center.

Council Member Arnett concluded by saying the Council did okay on the budget, but can do better. Council Member von Barga said he agrees with Council Member Arnett on these items.

Mayor O'Keefe said the schools are in Cedarburg and if there is not a school liaison officer the City will end up paying for investigative work that needs to be done.

Council Member Thome said the tree trimming contract amounts to \$89 per tree. She said the City could probably not do quality work for less than \$89.

Council Member Chivinski said he agrees with Council Member Arnett on most cases and agrees with comments made by Council Member Galbraith in recent meetings. He said the next budget will be very difficult as the Council needs to address the bigger issues.

Motion carried with Council Members von Bargen, Burkart, Verhaalen, Chivinski, and Thome voting aye and Council Members Arnett and Galbraith voting nay.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2018-22 APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF CEDARBURG FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Motion made by Council Member Thome, seconded by Council Member Burkart, to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-22 appropriating the necessary funds for the operation of the Government and Administration of the City for fiscal year 2019. Motion carried with Council Members von Bargen, Burkart, Verhaalen, Chivinski, and Thome voting aye and Council Members Arnett and Galbraith voting nay.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2018-23 APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE 2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

Motion made by Council Member Burkart, seconded by Council Member von Bargen, to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-23 appropriating the necessary funds for the 2019 Capital Improvement Budget. Motion carried with Council Members von Bargen, Burkart, Chivinski, and Thome voting aye and Council Members Arnett, Verhaalen, and Galbraith voting nay.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2018-24 ESTABLISHING THE USER CHARGE SCHEDULE AND APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE SEWERAGE FUND FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WATER RECYCLING CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Motion made by Council Member Thome, seconded by Council Member von Bargen, to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-24 establishing the user charge schedule and appropriating the necessary funds for the sewerage fund for the operation of the Water Recycling Center for fiscal year 2019. Motion carried with Council Members von Bargen, Arnett, Burkart, Verhaalen, Chivinski, and Thome voting aye and Council Member Galbraith voting nay.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 2018-25 APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND ADOPTING THE INDICATED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Motion made by Council Member von Bargen, seconded by Council Member Thome, to adopt Ordinance no. 2018-25 appropriating the necessary funds for the operation of the Special Revenue Funds and adopting the indicated budgets for fiscal year 2019. Motion carried with Council Members von Bargen, Burkart, Verhaalen, Chivinski, Thome, and Galbraith voting aye, and Council Member Arnett voting nay.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Council Member Burkart, seconded by Council Member Arnett, to approve the payment of the bills dated 11/19/18, transfers for the period 11/10/18 through 11/23/18, and payroll for the period 11/04/18 through 11/17/18. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator/Treasurer Mertes said the auditors will be at City Hall on Thursday and Friday of this week for preliminary work on the 2018 audit.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Thome said City Administrator/Treasurer Mertes spoke at a recent Rotary meeting and gave a great overview of the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Council Member Arnett, seconded by Council Member Burkart, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Constance K. McHugh, MMC/WCPC
City Clerk