

Common Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The Common Council of the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., October 2, 2024, in the Council Chambers of Neenah City Hall.

Mayor Lang is the chair.

Present: Aldermen Boyette, Erickson, Hillstrom, Lendrum, Weber, Pollnow, Steiner, Ellis, and Council President Borchardt. Staff present Director of Finance Rasmussen, Director of Community Development & Assessment Haese, Director of Public Works Kaiser, City Attorney Rashid, and City Clerk Nagel.

Also Present: Deputy Director of Community Development Schmidt, Director of Human Resources Fairchild, M3 Representative Kurzynske, Fire Chief Teesch, Director of Information Technology Schroeder, and those noted on the attached Meeting Sign-In Sheets.

Mayor Lang called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. The City Clerk called a voice roll call as the Mayor/Aldermen recorded their attendance in the RollCall-Pro System followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Ellis.

II. Proclamations

A. October 15, 2024 White Cane Safety Day

B. November 1, 2024 International LGS Awareness Day

Mayor Lang read the proclamations aloud and distributed them to the appropriate representatives.

Lennox-Gastaut Syndrom (LGS) Representative Ashley gave additional facts about LGS.

Alderman Boyette advised this was her daughter, Ashley, and granddaughter, Averi. Alderman Boyette encouraged the Council to wear as much purple and green as possible during the month of November, the colors that represent LGS.

III. Introduction and Confirmation of Mayor's Appointment(s)

A. None.

IV. Approval of Council Proceedings

A. Approval of the Council Minutes and Proceedings of September 18, 2024 regular session. **(UC)**

Seeing no objections, the Minutes and Proceedings were ordered approved.

V. Public Hearings

A. Consider Ordinance No. 2024-20, amending Section 26-661(3) and Section 26-661(8) of the Code of Ordinances relating to Tourist Housing.

Mayor Lang opened the public hearing at 7:09 PM. After several calls for comments, there were no appearances. Mayor Lang closed the public hearing at 7:09 PM.

VI. Plan Commission report pertaining to the Public Hearings

A. Plan Commission meeting of September 24, 2024: (Ald. Steiner) (Minutes can be found on the City web site)

1. Commission recommends Council approve Ordinance No. 2024-20, amending Section 26-661(3) and Section 26-661(8) of the Code of Ordinances relating to Tourist Housing (**RollCall-Pro**)
MSCRP Steiner/Borchardt to approve Ordinance No. 2024-20 as recommended by the Plan Commission, all voting aye.

Alderman Pollnow asked if the ordinance change was a product of the Housing Study. Director Haese advised the ordinance amendment is independent of the housing study, and is expected to have minor, if no, impacts related to housing.

Alderman Lendrum requested an explanation of the amendment.

Deputy Director Schmidt explained that in 2017 a tourist housing amendment was adopted to protect neighborhoods. Currently there is a quest to turn a floor in the downtown apartments into tourist housing. Under the current ordinance, the apartment must be the owner's primary residence. The amendment is to remove the primary residence requirement from commercial properties and to allow the utilization of a third-party management service. Due to the commercial aspect being such a small corner of the market, it is not anticipated to have an impact on tourist housing. The restrictions and the requirements for tourist housing are the same for residential and commercial properties.

Alderman Lendrum feels with both the traveling healthcare professional housing needs and long term care patients at Theda Clark this will enhance the temporary housing options.

VII. Public Forum

- A. Speakers should give their name and residential address (not mailing address) and are allowed five minutes to speak on any topic.
 - a. Dean Kaufert, Assembly District 53 Candidate – Introduced himself and asked for support in this very important election coming up on November 5th.

VIII. Mayor/Council consideration of public forum issues

- A. Alderman Boyette commended Candidate Kaufert for running for State Assembly District 53.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Preliminary Plat for the 4th Addition of the Homes at Freedom Meadows subdivision subject to the conditions on the preliminary plat review letter. **(PC)**
- B. **(UC)**
Seeing no objections, the Consent Agenda was ordered approved.

X. Reports of standing committees

- A. Regular Public Services and Safety Committee meeting of September 24, 2024: (Chairman Lendrum/Vice Chair Hillstrom) (Minutes can be found on the City web site)
 - a. Meeting cancelled, no report.
- B. Regular Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of September 23, 2024: (Chairman Erickson/Vice Chair Boyette) (Minutes can be found on the City web site)
 - 1. Committee recommends Council approve Self-Funded Healthcare Plan with UMR/OptumRx Projections with a \$1,750 deductible which is a 26.85% cost increase. **(RollCall-Pro)**
MSCRP Erickson/Ellis to approve as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee, all voting aye.

Director Fairchild gave a brief history of the healthcare program. The city was on a three-year rate cap with Robin that gave a no higher than a 12% increase per year. Based on last year's utilization, the increase should have been much higher.

A self-funded plan with a stop loss at \$100,000 is recommended because administrative costs can be saved by not having a third party manage the plan. The stop loss at \$100,000 means that the city will pay up to \$100,000 in claims per individual on the plan, anything above \$100,000 would be covered by a secondary stop loss insurance.

The current proposal provides a richer benefit to the employees by reducing the overall deductible and by offering a broader network option.

M3 Representative Kurzynske, advised more public employers are moving to self-funding programs because they simply cannot sustain the increase from commercial insurance companies. Most successful self-funded groups have a robust employee communication strategy. While it is important for employees to understand that the employer is paying all the claims out of employee premiums as a direct result of utilization, it is not necessary to make employees to feel bad about getting needed healthcare. The ultimate goal is for employees to utilize healthcare appropriately when care is needed. Successful self-funding programs use education to help employees navigate their health. The beauty of self-funding is that a third-party insurance company is not making profit from the city's premiums.

Alderman Steiner appreciated Ms. Kurzynske's thoroughness in evaluating the city's options at the Finance and Personnel Committee. He thinks this is the best option without eliminating significant benefits to the employees. This also matches what Alderman Steiner is seeing in the private sector. He thanked Ms. Kurzynske and Director Fairchild for their presentation and hard work coming up with this option.

Mayor Lang also thanked Ms. Kurzynske, Director Fairchild, and Director Rasmussen for sorting through all the information for the city.

2. Committee recommends Council approve the vision and amended dental proposal for 2025 as presented by staff. **(RollCall-Pro)**
MSCRP Erickson/Ellis to approve as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee, all voting aye.

Director Fairchild clarified dental renewal is at 3.7% increase which the city will pay a portion of, and the vision is a 5% increase with a three-year rate cap. The vision is a pass-through cost to the employee because it is considered purely a voluntary benefit.

Alderman Pollnow questioned if there should be two separate motions on this item. Alderman Boyette supported Alderman Pollnow's suggestion for two separate motions. Alderman Erickson did not agree stating the difference would be reflected in the minutes and in the presentation.

3. Committee recommends Council approve Central Square and BenTek System Integration with a total cost \$8720. **(RollCall-Pro)**
MSCRP Erickson/Steiner to approve as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee, all voting aye.

Alderman Pollnow questioned the funding source for the integration cost. Director Schroeder advised the original funding for the BenTek project was the ARPA funding in the capital equipment budget. However, with the projections from other projects, the capital equipment budget would be over. Currently we are recommending funding comes from the capital fund balance.

- XI. Reports of special committees and liaisons and various special projects committees
 - A. Regular Plan Commission meeting of September 24, 2024: (Council Rep Steiner)
(Minutes can be found on the City web site)
 1. Reported on under Public Hearing.
 - B. Board of Public Works meeting of September 26, 2024: (Vice Chair Hillstrom)
(Minutes can be found on the City web site)
 1. Information Only Items:

- a. The Board approved Change Order No.3, Contract 7-21, Harrison Street Storm Water Pond, to MCC, Inc., in the amount of \$8,299.18 for sidewalk waterfall pump installation and landscaping stone.
 - b. The Board approved Pay Request No.9, Contract 7-21, Harrison Street Storm Water Pond, to MCC, Inc., in the amount of \$127,479.29.
 - c. The Board approved Pay Request No.3, Contract 7-24, Concrete Pavement and Sidewalk Repairs, Jim Fischer, in an amount of \$72,052.56.
 - 2. Council Action Items:
 - a. The Board recommends Council approve Final Pay Request, Contract 1-23, Sanitary Sewer & Laterals, Storm Sewer, Water Main and Services, and Street Construction, to Don E. Parker Excavating, on Burr Avenue, Chestnut Street, Dieckhoff Street, and Laudan Boulevard, in the amount of \$277,261.19. **(Roll Call-Pro) MSCRP Hillstrom/Lendrum to approve as recommended by the Board of Public Works, all voting aye.**
- C. Library Board
- 1. Report from the Library Board Meeting of September 18, 2024, Alderman Erickson.
 - a. Circulation numbers for the Neenah Library were 54,179, Menasha Library was 40,426, and Oshkosh Library was 40,426. It was an outstanding summer with circulation.
 - b. Speed puzzling registration opens on October 13th at 5pm.
 - c. See the Neenah Library website for programming and event information.
- D. Neenah Arts Council
- 1. Report from the Neenah Arts Council Meeting of September 11, 2024, Alderman Erickson.
 - a. The group toured the Arts & Humanities Department at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA
 - b. The Council partnered with the Jack Richardson Gallery, and today there was a plain art event at Doty Park. There were many artists signed up for this event, and the weather was great.
 - c. The Neenah Arts Council will be receiving the Creative Community Champion award at that League of Wisconsin Municipalities Conference this October.
- E. Sustainable Neenah Committee
- 1. Report from the Sustainable Neenah Committee Meeting of September 25, 2024, Alderman Lendrum.
 - a. The Committee to a tour of newest solar panels at Globe Coffee. Solar panel technology has improved so much over the years. To learn about the newest solar panel technology, contact EnTec, a branch of Faith Technologies.
- F. Bergstrom Mahler Museum
- 1. Report from the Bergstrom Mahler Museum Meeting, Council President Borchardt.

- a. Community Event: Art After Dark: Renaissance Faire, September 26th, 2024 5:30pm -8:30pm <https://bmmglass.com/art-after-dark/>
- b. Save the date for Night at the Museum on February 15th.

XII. Presentation of petitions

- A. Any other petition received by the City Clerk's Office after distribution of the agenda.
 - 1. No petitions.

XIII. Council Directives

XIV. Unfinished Business

- A. Alderman Erickson would like an update on the council security training.
- B. Alderman Boyette announced there will be new military monument for services members will be dedicated at Oak Hill Cemetery on October 6, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the military section. Everyone is invited.

XV. New Business

- A. Arrowhead Park Development Status Report. (Alderman Hillstrom)
 - 1. Nothing new to report.
- B. Any announcements/questions that may legally come before the Council.
 - 1. Alderman Lendrum wished Alderman Hillstrom a Happy Birthday.
 - 2. Council President Borchardt announced Dr. Harrison, the new Neenah Joint School District Superintendent, will be hosting listening sessions. See NSJD website for dates and times.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Pollnow/Boyette to adjourn. Motion carried in a voice vote 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Nagel, City Clerk