

**Niagara City Council Meeting  
Monday, April 21, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Stern. Present: Mayor Stern, Aldermen Kuchinski, Lantagne, Steeno, Towns, Moreau and Brown. Also present: Administrator Novak, Director of Public Works Payette, Police Chief Lamoreaux, Marvin Chamberlain, David Rock, Rose Bousley, Ron Lawrence and Veronica Dixon.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

There were no public appearances.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Kuchinski noted that he and Dave Rock were present at the Park and Recreation Committee Meeting on 04-16-08.

A motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the Minutes of the 3-17-08 Regular Council Meeting, the 04-16-08 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting as amended and the 04-15-08 Reorganizational Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Discussion was held regarding the bills. Alderman Lantagne questioned whether the City receives government rates for hotel accommodations while attending conferences or training. It was noted that the City does receive a government rate and they are also tax exempt. A motion was then made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Moreau to approve the bills in the amount of \$57,538.46. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS**

A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the Staff Reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

1. Administrator Novak provided an update of the proposed Highway 141 Reconstruction Project, which will take place in 2011 and the construction of the new Interstate Bridge that will take place commencing late in 2010 through 2011.
2. Administrator Novak also provided an update regarding the status of the grant and loan application through USDA Rural Development. It was noted that an archeological survey must be completed for the area proposed for the new water main construction. The survey will only encompass the areas of land that have previously been undisturbed. The cost of the archeological survey is \$1,645.09.
3. Discussion was held regarding the recommendation to hire the part-time employees for the Public Works Department. Administrator Novak and Director of Public Works Payette have recommended the re-hiring of Alexandra Weber and the hiring of Matt Harvath for the 2008 Summer Employment period. A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Brown to approve the hiring in accordance with the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously. It was also noted that a Public Works Committee Meeting should be scheduled to discuss the 2008 Street Paving

Program. Administrator Novak informed the Council that the City will receive a grant through the Municipal Street Improvement Program which will cover approximately \$16,000 of the cost of paving Washington Street from Garfield Street to Roosevelt Road. A meeting should be held to discuss other streets that should be included in this year's Paving Program and a bid proposal should be prepared at the earliest possible date.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Mayor Stern noted that he would like to discuss the status of the River Street Parkway project and suggested that a joint meeting of the Public Works Committee and the Park and Recreation Committee be held. It was agreed that a joint meeting will be held at 5:30 on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. In addition, a Finance and Administration Committee Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30 to discuss the status of the City's Exterior Maintenance Ordinance.
2. Mayor Stern indicated that he would welcome recommendations for the Mayor's Beautification Award. The recommendations are due by Labor Day 2008. He encourages citizens to submit recommendations for this award.
3. Mayor Stern also noted that the City must step up its' efforts to gain compliance with its' Exterior Maintenance Ordinance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Engineering Services Contract regarding all phases of design and engineering related to Well #4 was presented. It was explained that this contract will supercede previous contracts that have already been approved, however, this contract will include all related work and is in the format that is necessary for compliance with the Rural Development Grant and Loan application. A motion was made by Alderman Kuchinski and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the Engineering Services Contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Pay Request #2 for Municipal Well & Pump was addressed. This is the second request from the contractor and it also includes a request for a change order in the net amount \$12,960. The change order is necessary because of problems encountered while drilling the new well. The methodology for drilling the well changed which required additional cost. A motion was then made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Steeno to approve Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$40,899.40 and Change Order #1 in the amount of \$12,690. Motion carried unanimously.
3. The next order of business was to discuss the purchase of a Police Squad Car. Police Chief Lamoreaux indicated that he had received three bids for the squad car. The state bid price of \$21,353 was the low bid. Additional bids came from Witt Ford in Crivitz and Town and County Ford in Quinnesec. A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the purchase of a squad car in the amount of \$21,353 with budgeted funds. Motion carried unanimously.
4. The Council considered the purchase of a new dump truck chassis and plow. Director of Public Works Payette indicated that he has received two quotes for an International Truck Chassis. The low quote is from Schultz Equipment in Iron Mountain in the amount of \$70,900. A quote was also received from the International dealer in Green Bay. It was \$1,000 higher. During discussion Administrator Novak explained that at budget time it was agreed that the City would borrow funds for the purchase of this truck and related

equipment. It was noted that an additional \$35,000 will be expended on the purchase of the dump box, however, the truck and chassis must be ordered at this time as there is approximately a four to five month delay in delivery. A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Kuchinski to approve the purchase of the International Truck in the amount of \$70,900 from Schultz Equipment and to authorize the necessary borrowing not to exceed \$107,000 for funding the truck and related dump box. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution 4-08-1 was addressed. This Resolution provides for amending the snowmobile and ATV routes throughout the city and requests that ATV routes be extended from the Marinette County trail northward to the city limits. The resolution also includes a request that the State of Michigan and State of Wisconsin also provide a multi-modal accommodation on the new interstate bridge. During discussion, the resolution was amended to provide that the existing trail within the City and other trail amendments be done to include ATV's at the earliest possible date to provide that the trails are open to the public and available upon the completion of the interstate bridge. A motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Lantagne to approve the Resolution as amended. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Resolution 4-08-2 was addressed. This pertains to adopting the Marinette County Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is required that the City and all other municipalities within the County conform to this portion of the Emergency Management Plan. Administrator Novak indicated that there was no financial impact related to this approval. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Steeno to approve Resolution 4-08-2 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Resolution 4-08-3 which provides for a Rural Development Grant and Loan application was addressed. Administrator Novak indicated that this Resolution formalizes the City's request to obtain \$892,000 in Rural Development Loan Financing and up to \$256,000 in a grant toward the construction of a new Municipal Well #4 and the related arsenic treatment equipment and the construction of a new water main from Well #4 to Ford Court. A motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve Resolution 4-08-3 regarding the grant and loan application as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
8. The City addressed the need for temporary borrowing. Administrator Novak indicated that under the terms of the grant and loan agreement with Rural Development, the City must borrow funds temporarily until completion of the project. Upon completion of the project, which is expected to be Fall 2008, Rural Development will refinance \$892,000 of the project cost and provide up to \$256,000 of grant. At this time the short term borrowing will be paid off. Administrator Novak indicated that he has discussed this matter with the First National Bank and they are prepared to provide the necessary loan for the project. A motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Steeno to authorize temporary borrowing of up to \$892,000 from the First National Bank of Niagara pursuant to the Rural Development Grant and Loan for the Well #4 project. Motion carried unanimously.
9. A request was received from the Project Graduation Committee. This provides for the alcohol-free graduation party at Recreation Lanes after graduation for the Niagara High School Seniors. Administrator Novak indicated that the City has previously donated \$200 toward this project. Alderman Kuchinski indicated that he felt this is a worthwhile

endeavor, however it is not appropriate for the City taxpayers to be funding this event. Alderman Kuchinski indicated that he feels it would be more appropriate for individuals to personally donate to this event as opposed to tax dollars being used. A motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the \$200 donation to the 2008 Project Graduation Fund. Motion carried 4 – 2 with Alderman Kuchinski and Alderman Lantagne voting no.

10. Discussion was held regarding the appointment of Fire Department Officers. Alderman Brown and Administrator Novak indicated that this matter should be tabled and referred to the Public Safety Committee at this time. This matter is in regard to the appointment of officers to the Volunteer Fire Department and relates to the manner in which officers were promoted to positions in the past. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Steeno to refer this matter to the Public Safety Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
11. An Operator's License for Rhonda Process was address. Police Chief Lamoreaux indicated that the background checks indicate there is no problem with granting an Operator's License for this individual. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Lantagne to approve the request for an Operator's License. Motion carried 5 – 0 with Alderman Steeno abstaining.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Towns to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.