

**Common Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021—7:00pm**

The Common Council of the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, met in regular session at 7:00pm, April 7, 2021, in the Council Chambers of Neenah City Hall and virtually.

Mayor Kaufert in the chair.

Present: Alderpersons Boyette, Bates, Lang, Lendrum, Erickson, Borchardt, Steele, Hillstrom, and Stevenson, Director of Finance Easker, Director of Community Development & Assessment Haese, Director of Public Works Kaiser, City Attorney Westbrook, and City Clerk Cheslock.

Also Present: Police Chief Olson, Assistant Police Chief Bernice, Deputy Director of Community Development & Assessment Schmidt, Director of Parks and Recreation Kading, Fire Chief Kloehn, Director of Water Utility Mach, Director of Human Resources and Safety Kehl, Alderperson Elect Skyrms, Assistant Planner Kasimor, Anne D., Julie Fluette, Kathy Ziminski, Candace Leach, Jane Selwin, Jean Maurice Boyer, William Tisdale, Carla Wertheim, Heidi Keating, Ellen Kunz, Jennifer Frank, Brian Sterns, Sara Creighton, Doug Gieryn (Winnebago County Health Dept. Director), Rachael Dowling, Kristin Clark, Alissa Schwalbach, Michael Jacobson, Janette Strasurger, Keith Wilkinson, Jill Murphy, Scott McMahon, Bobby Greene, W. Marijke Van Roojen, Mary Glesner, Ron Klatt, and Duke Behnke.

Mayor Kaufert called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

- I. Clerk Cheslock called a voice roll call, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Introduction and Confirmation of Mayor's Appointments  
Mayor Kaufert recognized Daniel Rabideau for his 27 years of service on the Street Crew in the Public Works Department and Michael Janke for his 31 years with the Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue.
- III. Proceedings  
**MS Lendrum/Borchardt to approve the Council Proceedings of the regular meeting of March 17, 2021. There being no objections, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.**
- IV. Public Hearings
  - A. Consider Redevelopment Area No. 4 South Commercial Street Redevelopment Plan. Mayor Kaufert opened the Public Hearing. There being no appearances, Mayor Kaufert closed the Public Hearing.

- V. Community Development Authority report pertaining to the Public Hearings
- A. Ald. Bates reported from the Community Development Authority meeting of March 22, 2021: (Minutes can be found on the City's website)
1. CDA recommends Council approve Resolution 2021-08, approving boundaries for Redevelopment area No. 4—South Commercial Street, approving Redevelopment Plan therefore.  
The Council discussed that this simply approves the boundaries of the redevelopment area and does not bind the council to any of the various options described in the Redevelopment Plan.  
**MSCRP Bates/Lendrum, all voting aye.**
- VI. Public Forum
- A. William Tisdale and Carla Wertheim from the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council are present to share information on what their Council does in our area and what they would use Community Development Block Grant funds for.
- B. Mary Glesner—1301 Nature Trail Drive—shared her support of R2021-07 and thanked staff and the Public Service and Safety Committee for all their work on this resolution. She explained some of the restrictions that will be lifted with the passage of this resolution, while highlighting the safety measures that will still be in place. She asked Council to approve the resolution.
- C. Ron Klatt—202 Grant Street—shared his thanks and support of the Mayoral Proclamation to rename the Neenah Slough to Neenah Creek. He highlighted the many efforts that have been made by many different facets of the community to clean up and transform that area into a water recreation destination.
- D. Wendy Van Roojen—428 9<sup>th</sup> Street—Shared her support for the mask mandate in the City of Neenah. She shared concerns about the new variants in the area and the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Winnebago County.
- E. Ellen Kunz—707 Congress Place—shared her support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah and thanked City Staff for their efforts over the past year to keep city services running.
- F. Doug Gieryn—1236 West Breeze Drive—Director of Health Services in Winnebago County—shared his support of the mask mandate and summarized the most recent report of the Winnebago County Health Department. which shows increasing cases over the past two weeks. He also stated that the new variants have been found in Winnebago County and that those variants seem to be more contagious than the previous strain. He urges municipalities to pass temporary mask mandates to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- G. Jean Maurice Boyer—1101 Nicolet Boulevard—shared his support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.
- H. Sara Creighton—2435 Bruce Street—shared her support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.

- I. Heidi Keating—525 Riford Road— shared her support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.
- J. Brian Sterns—E9597 Kanaman Road, New London— shared his support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.
- K. Jennifer Frank—3000 Guardian Lane— shared her support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.
- L. John Skyrms—116 ½ W Wisconsin Avenue— shared his support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.
- M. Kristin Clark—549 Riford Road— shared her support of the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.
- N. Keith Wilkinson—714 Cedar Street—shared his opposition to the mask mandate in the City of Neenah.

VII. Mayor/Council consideration of public forum issues

- A. Ald. Lendrum inquired about vaccine rollouts in our area. Doug Gieryn stated the number of vaccines should stay steady through April and they hope to see an increase in May.
- B. Ald. Erickson inquired about the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors and if they have something similar to this ordinance in front of them. Doug Gieryn stated there was a mandate proposed to the Board but it was tabled. The Health Department is discussing the possibility of creating a new order to bring before the Board.
- C. Ald. Lang inquired about the goal percentage for vaccinations. Doug Gieryn stated, obviously 100% would be ideal but is aware that is unlikely. He stated herd immunity occurs at different percentages for different viruses but they are looking for 80% vaccinated as a goal. Currently Winnebago County is only at 20%
- D. Ald. Boyette inquired as to enforcement of the ordinance. Attorney Westbrook stated that would be better suited for later discussion when the ordinance itself is up for debate.
- E. Ald. Stevenson shared his concern regarding the upcoming request to suspend the rules to vote on this ordinance.
- F. The Council then discussed why a delay may not be possible or advisable and how and by whom the ordinance would be enforced.
- G. Chief Olson shared his concern for his department and their limited resources should Ordinance 2021-08 be passed.

VIII. **Consent Agenda**

**Ald. Bates requested to remove item A from the Consent Agenda.**

- A. Approve the Street Use Permit for the Bike to Boogie Concert, sponsored by Future Neenah, 135 W Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah WI, to be held on August 25, 2021. (Postponed from the March 17, 2021 Common Council) **(PSSC)**

**MS Stevenson/Boyette to take up item 14a at this time. There being no objection, the Council moved to item 14a and then resumed normal business.**

IX. Reports of standing committees

- A. Chairman Bates reported from the Regular Public Service & Safety Committee meeting of March 9, 2021: (Chairman Bates/Vice Chair Lang) (Minutes can be found on the City's website)
1. Chairman Bates requested the Street Use Permit for Bike to Boogie be referred back to the Public Service and Safety Committee for review due to a venue change.  
No discussion.  
**MS Bates/Stevenson to refer the Street Use Permit for Bike to Boogie back to the Public Service and Safety Committee for review, all voting aye.**
- B. Chairman Bates reported from the Regular Public Service & Safety Committee meeting of March 30, 2021: (Chairman Bates/Vice Chair Lang) (Minutes can be found on the City's website)
1. Committee recommends Council approve Resolution No. 2021-07 amending the fence restriction on the Nature Trails Subdivision Plat lots 2, 3, 20, 21, 22, 39, 40, 41, 51, 52, 53, and 54.  
No discussion.  
**MSCRП Bates/Stevenson, all voting aye.**
  2. Committee recommends Council approve the City of Neenah Police Department participation in the Winnebago County Speed Task Force, 2021 Summer Speed Enforcement Grant from June 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021.  
No discussion.  
**MSCRП Bates/Hillstrom, all voting aye.**
  3. Committee recommends Council approve Ordinance 2021-06 allowing for Temporary Outside Seating due to COVID-19.  
No discussion.  
**MSCRП Bates/Borchardt, all voting aye.**
  4. Committee recommends Council approve Ordinance 2021-07 allowing for Temporary Sales of Merchandise on Public Sidewalks due to COVID-19.  
No discussion.  
**MSCRП Bates/Hillstrom, all voting aye.**
  5. Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of the Progressive 800214 Remote Controlled lawn mower from Reinders, Inc., Appleton in an amount of \$48,952.00.  
No discussion.  
**MSCRП Bates/Lang, all voting aye.**
- C. Chairman Erickson reported from the regular Finance & Personnel Committee meeting of March 29, 2021: (Chairman Erickson/Vice Chairman Boyette) (Minutes can be found on the City's website)
1. Committee recommends Council approve Resolution No. 2021-06 for the 2021 Community Development Block Grant and authorize entering into agreements for the activities, subject to approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.  
William Tisdale, president and Chief Executive Officer, and Carla Wertheim, Executive Vice President, of Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council

gave a brief presentation regarding the work they do in fair housing and how it helps people locally.

**MSCRP Erickson/Borchardt, all voting aye.**

2. Committee recommends Council accept petition for Annexation #221 of 29.75 acres located at CTH G/Woodenshoe Road in the Town of Vinland.

**(to be acted on after recommendation from Plan Commission)**

3. Committee recommends Council approve the 2020 Operating Budget Carry Forwards to 2021.

No discussion.

**MSCRP Erickson/Borchardt, all voting aye.**

4. Committee recommends Council approve the revisions to Police 2008-1: Compensatory Time.

No discussion.

**MSCRP Erickson/Borchardt, all voting aye.**

5. Committee recommends Council approve the update to the Employee Handbook regarding Separation from Employment.

No discussion.

**MSCRP Erickson/Borchardt, all voting aye.**

6. Committee recommends Council approve the temporary modification of City Hall house of operation as outlined in Option 1 from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2021 as a trial period which will be reviewed in the fall.

The Council discussed the possibility of trying option 2 at a later date, either this fall or next summer and that the new hours will be posted on the door ways, on the City website, and on social media.

**MSCRP Erickson/Borchardt, all voting aye.**

- D. Chairman Boyette reported from the regular Neenah-Menasha Joint Finance & Personnel Committee meeting of March 23, 2021: (Minutes can be found on the City website)

1. Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of two 2022 Ford Transit Connect Utility vans from Bergstrom Automotive and related equipment for a total price not to exceed \$61,000.00.

No discussion.

**MSCRP Boyette/Stevenson, all voting aye.**

X. Reports of special committees and liaisons and various special projects committees

- A. Council Rep. Lang reported from the regular Plan Commission Meeting of March 30, 2021:

1. Commission recommends Council approve Annexation #221 (Ordinance #2021-05) and the property also receive an R-1, Single Family Residence District zoning classification.

No discussion.

**MSCRP Lang/Stevenson, all voting aye.**

- B. Vice Chairman Bates reported from the Board of Public Works meeting of March 30, 2021:

1. Information Only

- a. The Board approved Pay Estimate No. 3 for Arrowhead Park Phase 1A Carriage/Trail/Shoreline Project to Soper Grading and Excavating LLC, Oshkosh in the amount of \$ 75,706.05.
- b. The Board approved Change Order No. 1 for Arrowhead Phase 1A Carriage/Trail/Shoreline Project to Soper Grading and Excavating LLC, Oshkosh for increased quantities of erosion control, stone aggregate, top soil, and seeding in the amount of \$76,279.25.

2. Council Action Items

- a. The Board recommends Council approve award Contract for the Doty Court Development Project to Project to Poblocki Paving Corp, West Allis, WI, in the amount of \$160,629 and to authorize staff to purchase owner provided equipment.

The Council discussed the reason for directly purchasing the aforementioned equipment. Dir. Kading explained the City can purchase the equipment at a lower price on their own than going through the contractor. The Council also discussed the overall budget for this project and the fact that it is coming out as slightly under budget.

**MSCRP Bates/Hillstrom all voting aye.**

C. Landmarks Commission

1. Alderperson Lang reported from the Landmarks Commission meeting of March 24, 2021, stating the Commission reviewed the City of Menasha Landmarks Commission web page and may implement some similar features. They also discussed a plan for collaborative work between the Landmarks Commission and the Historical Society.

D. Sustainable Neenah Committee

1. Alderperson Borchardt reported from the Sustainable Neenah Committee meeting of March 27, 2021, stating they discussed No Mow May and possible displays for the Neenah Farmer's Market.

E. Reports on neighborhood groups

1. Business Improvement District (BID) Board
  - a. Alderperson Lang reported from the BID Board meeting of March 1, 2021, stating they will conduct a district walk through on June 9<sup>th</sup>. They approved a sign permit for 214 West Wisconsin where there will be a cheesecake bakery as well as a coffee roaster opening soon. Ald. Lang stated there will not be an annual meeting this year.

F. Bergstrom Mahler Museum—no report

XI. Petitions—none

XII. Council Directives—none

XIII. Unfinished Business—none

XIV. New Business

- A. Council ratification of Mayoral Proclamation Renaming the Neenah Slough within the City of Neenah.

**MSC Stevenson/Boyette to ratify Mayoral Proclamation renaming the Neenah Slough within the City of Neenah. Motion carried on voice vote, 8-1; Ald. Bates voted no.**

- B. Alderperson Steele proposal of Ordinance 2021-08 creating a temporary mask order for the City of Neenah.

Ald. Steele shared her concerns regarding COVID-19, the continuing spread of the virus, the recent increase in local cases, and requested the Council adopt this ordinance in order to help our community slow the spread. She stated masks work and are an affordable and risk free thing everyone can do to keep each other safe.

**MSCRP Steele/Lendrum to suspend the rules of the Council to allow a vote to occur on Ordinance 2021-08 at tonight's meeting, motion carried 5-4 (Ald. Boyette, Lang, Borchardt, Stevenson voted no; Ald. Bates, Lendrum, Hillstrom, Steele, Erickson voted yes).**

**MS Steele/Lendrum to approve Ordinance 2021-08 creating a temporary mask order for the City of Neenah.**

The Council discussed enforcement, how the police department and Winnebago County Health Department will be involved in enforcement, the difference between passing this ordinance or releasing a press release urging people to wear masks, how this order would impact local business owners, and the possibility and impacts of sending this ordinance to a committee for discussion before Council takes action.

**MS Boyette/Stevenson to refer Ordinance 2021-08 to the next Public Service and Safety Committee meeting for further discussion.**

**Ald. Lendrum moved to amend the motion to refer Ordinance 2021-08 to an emergency Committee of the Whole meeting to be directly followed by a Special Council meeting for discussion and action. Amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment by Ald. Boyette and Stevenson.**

**MSCRP Boyette/Stevenson to refer Ordinance 2021-08 to an emergency Committee of the Whole meeting to be directly followed by a Special Council meeting for discussion and action. Motion passed 8-1 (Ald. Steele voted no).**

- C. Mayor Kaufert congratulated the recently elected City Officials John Skyrms for District 1; Brian Borchardt and Marge Bates for District 2; and Todd Stevenson for District 3.

- D. Mayor Kaufert thanked former Alderperson Spellman for her service on the Council and County Board. He also thanked Alderperson Steele for her service on Council over the past three years.

- E. Council President Stevenson also thanked Alderperson Steele for her dedication to the Council during her term as Alderperson.

- F. Mayor Kaufert shared the recent ribbon cutting at the new St. Vincent De Paul food pantry and thanked Judy Zaretzke for her dedication and service to the community.
- G. Mayor Kaufert noted this is Clerk Cheslock's last meeting with the City of Neenah and will be moving on to a position with the City of Appleton. He thanked her for her contributions and dedication to election integrity.
- H. Mayor Kaufert noted the City has also been served another injunction regarding the construction on Lakeshore. More information will be forthcoming.

XV. Adjournment

**MSC Borcahrdt/Boyette to adjourn at 10:49 pm, all voting aye.**



Stephanie Cheslock  
City Clerk