

City of Fox Lake
Committee of the Whole Synopsis
May 19, 2021

The May 19, 2021 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, at 6:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Alderpersons Dan Ault, Marcy Benz, Peter Hartzheim, John Mund, and Don Zilewicz. Dennis Linke was absent. Also attending were City Administrator Dean Perlick, City Attorney Mike Devitt, Police Chief James Rohr, Librarian Erin Anders, City Treasurer Krystal McCauley, City DPW Superintendent Gene Huettner and City Clerk Jenny Quirk.

Kayla Sharpee, Fred Benz, Sarah Theander, Jennifer Maleck, Becky Bussian and Richie Quirk were in the audience.

Discuss minimum delinquent water bill amount for shut off notices:

McCauley recommended the minimum delinquent water bill shut off notice amount be updated from the \$65.00 to \$85.00. Most normal monthly bills will be over \$65.00. The \$85.00 will also match with the amount we use for moving delinquencies to the tax roll. The Mayor stated we will vote on this in the June council meeting.

Update on reducing the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph along Spring St. (S. STH 33) for the purpose of allowing ATV/UTV access to the City:

Chief provided an update that the DOT will not reduce the speed in this section of STH 33. However, there are requirements we can go through to ask for permission to use that section of road to allow a path for ATV/UTV to connect into the City. We are looking into other options and different ways to work with this.

Library:

Librarian Anders shared that the library is allowing groups of 5 or less to gather at the same time. Some groups are now able to start meeting. The historical society is not ready for volunteers to come back in yet. The lower level would then require extra cleaning and better ventilation. Also currently working on some grants for the library.

Bulk garbage pick-up:

Perlick shared that the City-wide bulk pick up was officially scheduled for May 26, 2021 and provided a flyer with the approved current prices and instructions.

Discuss options for a City recycling drop off center:

Citizens have asked if the city could offer an alternative for recycling, like a recycling center. There was great concern by the aldermen as to who would manage and monitor the location as well as where it would be located. Ault suggested citizens could call Waste Management and request larger cans. There was also a suggestion to take recycling items to the center located in Waupun. It was decided to not move forward with looking into a recycling drop off center at this time.

Discuss Section 197-24, Chickens of the City Code:

Perlick stated that there is a current situation regarding a chicken coop located on a side yard, but the ordinance states in needs to be in a backyard. In this situation it is a better location on the side yard.

However, as our ordinance is written it does not give the council the option to grant waivers. We would like to amend the ordinance to allow council to have the ability to make individual waivers when necessary. The Mayor stated we will vote on this in the June council meeting. It was decided to allow the chicken coop, in question, to remain as it is until the council can vote on amending the ordinance.

Discuss Section 520-71, Fences of the City Code and Section 441, Trees and Shrubs of the City Code and how to apply regulations:

Perlick explained that planting a tight row of trees or shrubs is not considered a fence, according to the City Attorney. Trees and shrubs are considered landscaping and a fence is considered to be constructed. Landscaping can be on a lot line, but a fence is required to be 3 feet from the property line. Huettner explained that if a tree is planted on a lot line the neighbor can cut or maintain the portion of the tree that is on their property. The rules for planting of trees along a driveway only applies to City owned property, but not private owned property.

Discuss rent and deposit rates for the Fireman's Park and Clausen Park concession stands:

The buildings and parks committee will plan to meet prior to the June Council Meeting to discuss a recommendation for rent and deposit rates for both Fireman's Park and Clausen Park buildings. There was also discussion on opening the public restrooms located in the Fireman's Park for daily use instead of opening only with a rental. This will be voted on at the June council meeting.

Discuss making the Little League baseball diamond into a permanent dog park:

The Mayor stated he has received many compliments on the dog park and few complaints. Huettner said it would be best to make the decision to choose the park's purpose, either leave it as a ball diamond or finish converting it over to a dog park. Benz noted there would be a few improvements that would be beneficial, but for the most part there would not be much that needs to be structurally changed. Quirk shared that he takes care of the cleaning and mowing of the dog park for the DPW. He hears many compliments from people using the park and that most people do a great job at cleaning up after their dogs. It is used often, and we could benefit from a donation box. It will be placed on the June council agenda for voting.

Friends of Clausen Park discussion of changing the name of Riverside Memorial Park to Clausen Park:

The Friends of Clausen Park would like to see the Clausen Park and Riverside Memorial Park areas be referred to by one name, Clausen Park. Leaving the Cemetery area to be referred to as Riverside Memorial Park. They would also like to provide different colored envelopes at the boat launch area for people to be able to leave a park donation. The Mayor would like to discuss further at the June Committee of the Whole meeting.

Zilewicz noted that the Fox Lake American Legion had donated \$500 towards the landscaping project for the Mill Creek Restoration Rain Garden alongside Clausen Park. He also shared that the Fox Lake Girl Scout group has disbanded. The troop leader donated \$350 to the Fox Lake American Legion. The Fox Lake American Legion in turn donated that \$350 back to the Clausen Park restoration project.

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.