

**City of Fox Lake**  
**Committee of the Whole Synopsis**  
**October 20, 2021**

The October 20, 2021 committee of the whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Bednarek, at 6:38 p.m., following the special council meeting. Those in attendance were Alderpersons Marcy Benz, Peter Hartzheim, Dennis Linke, John Mund and Darrell Pollesch present. Dan Ault was absent. Also attending were Police Chief Jim Rohr, Librarian Erin Anders, City DPW Superintendent Gene Huettner, City Treasurer Krystal McCauley, City Administrator Kelly Crombie, City Administrator Dean Perlick, City Attorney Mike Devitt and City Clerk Jenny Quirk.

In the audience were Roger & Becky Bussian, Sarah Bunkoske, Jackie Teachout, Tom Heffron and Jeff Thelen.

**Building & Parks:**

Tom Heffron from the Bever Dam Area Community Foundation did a presentation to explain the purpose and the benefits of their organization and how they could help the Friends of Clausen Park. They are non-profit and can help provide long term funding. Municipalities can set up their own fund account to promote and collect donations that will be considered tax deductible. While the funds are not being used they are conservatively invested and then collect interest. The Mayor would like this to have further consideration and be voted on at the November council meeting.

Crombie spoke regarding the Clausen Park TIF loan and a proposed loan resolution. There was discussion of the city loaning TIF 2 money to be used a portion of the City's match for the Clausen Park improvements. It is understood that there will be additional points awarded on the DNR grant for using TIF money. There would be a resolution included as part of the grant application and the city would only be obligated if the grant is approved by the DNR.

**Library:**

Librarian Anders explained that in the past the friends of the library group coordinated the city-wide rummage sale, but they have now disbanded. The Mayor said to leave it as Mother's Day weekend as it has been for many years. There will be no maps or coordinating provided by the city. The dates will continue to be shared on the city Facebook page and the visitor's guide.

**City Administrator:**

Crombie presented a report to the Mayor and council noting the status of current city projects; including an update on Validio Homes purchase of 5 lots on Linden Ln. with construction starting on the 10 duplex units. They plan to begin 2 units yet this year. Also that the Meagher property purchase is still being worked on.

Crombie noted that he had met local business owners and was glad to share that many plan on future expansions here.

Crombie added that a covid sick leave policy was put in place, due to the number of positive cases locally. He was open to any suggestions or questions. The council agreed with the policy as it was.

Crombie provided updated information regarding the proposed vacating of Mullin Dr. and Heuer Ct. The city has been negotiating the purchase of 2 small parcels at the end of Mullin Dr. and Heuer Ct from Dale Paul. This would even out the current right of ways as the current right of ways do not extend to the property

lines. Then the city would vacate Mullin Dr. and Heuer Ct, the right of way would be split on each side to adjoining property owners. Then a new Mullin Dr. would be adjacent to the apartment building. This would allow for a new single-family lot to be created for a home to be built on.

Crombie explained that currently there are 3 different roads named Linden in the new subdivision. Considering the amount of confusion this could cause for first responders and in general he would like to discuss the renaming of the streets. Primary looking at the streets that do not have any houses addressed yet. Essentially this would lead to 3 name changes. Crombie asked the council for suggestions of new street name. He doesn't feel this is an immediate problem but should be dealt with prior to any further development. The Mayor said this will be discussed further at the November COW meeting.

Crombie presented the discussion of the need for full city reassessment. Currently the City assessment is at only about 80% of its fair market value. This is below what is allowable with the state and will require the full city reassessment soon. Grota Appraisals would do the reassessment of the entire city. In consideration of the covid concerns they would do a market update which would allow them to not have to go into the homes. This would also be a more affordable way to do the reassessment. The Mayor would like this to be on the council agenda for November.

Crombie shared that we have received the loan applications from the Board of Commissioners of public Lands. The City is looking at the possibility of 2 different loans for the 2022 budget year. One for the DPW street projects and equipment. The second for the purchase of the Meagher property. This will be presented at the November council meeting for approval.

#### **Public Works:**

Crombie asked the council to decide if the street sweeper was something the city would want to own so he and Huettner could move forward with Macqueen Equipment to get a firm quote as well as look into the financing options together for the November meeting. The consensus of the council was to buy a new piece of equipment vs purchasing a used.

#### **Water/sewer utilities:**

#### **Fire/Police:**

Chief Rohr and Crombie updated the council on the status of the 2022-2024 police union contract. He noted there were 2 changes being made: changes to the carryover of comp time and a pay structure modification. There was an error found in the proposed contract, so it will need to be corrected by the union before approval at the next council meeting.

#### **License & Finance:**

Discuss the preliminary City of Fox Lake budget for 2022. Treasurer McCauley provided preliminary budget worksheets and answered questions on line items.

With no other business to come before the committee of the whole, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.