

A Regular Meeting of the Boscobel Common Council
Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Boscobel, Wisconsin, was called to order by Mayor Brenda Kalish at 7:00 pm. Members Present: Alder Barb Bell, Alder Gary Kjos, Alder Stephanie Brown, Alder Steve Fritz, Alder Milt Cashman, Alder Roger Brown, Alder Brian Kendall and Alder Krissy Schneider. Absent: None

Others Present: Engineer/DPW Mike Reynolds, City Administrator Patricia Smith, City Attorney Ben Wood, Street Superintendent Luke Brown, Linda Haney, Rita Thompson, Jeannette Nauert and Joe Hart. Virtual: Library Director Janelle Miller and April Rooney.

Agenda: Proof in the form of a certificate of public notice given as required by § 19.84, Wis. Stats., as to the holding of this meeting, was presented by the Clerk.

Minutes 12/27/2022: Motion by Alder R. Brown, second by Alder Kjos to approve minutes of the December 27, 2022, Common Council meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments & Concerns: Mayor Kalish allowed request from Rita Thompson to make comments to the Council. Thompson communicated she went to the City of Boscobel's online website to register to make comments for this meeting and she was unable to do so. As well, she stated she contacted her Alderpersons, Brian Kendall and Roger Brown but had not heard back from them by meeting time. Thompson requested for citizen comments and concerns remain on the agenda so those who want to be included in the meetings could have a platform for their voices to be heard. Thompson stated that it would encourage public participation. Thompson also asked that the email distribution for the agenda and packet with the citizen requester list remain. Thompson had four questions for the council to consider: 1. Why would you not want to encourage public participation; it has appearance that someone is trying to hide something. 2. Who is going to remain on the email list? If the requesters can't be included, why would the council members be allowed to have agenda and packet sent to their private email accounts? 3. Who are you really trying to prevent from knowing what is happening in this community and why? 4. If you were really trying to prevent things from being discussed, why was this topic not on the agenda but still discussed in the previous council meeting on 12/27/22. Thompson thanked the council for their time. The response to the comments by Mayor Kalish stated that other municipalities have gone to registering citizen comments and concerns. City Attorney Wood also stated, addressing item #1, that the council is not eliminating your voices to be heard. We still want to hear from the citizens; we are just requesting that a citizen register to be on the agenda stating the topic they wish to discuss so the council is prepared for the topic. As well, he stated we have nothing to hide, and we follow the law. Regarding item #4, the topic of changing from citizen comments and concerns to registered citizen's comments, was on the agenda of 12/27/2022, under administrative reports, Mayor Kalish. Administrative reports can be verbal updates by department heads and Mayor. Alderperson Cashman stated that the agenda can be located on the website and can be viewed prior to the meeting. We also post in three public places to be viewed, addressing item #3. City Attorney Wood also stated other municipalities do not email packets and agendas to select groups. They only publicly post the agenda in the three areas, Post Office, Library and City Hall. Anyone who has interest in attending the meeting are welcome to come and participate. Regarding registering to speak at future council meetings, contact City Hall to be added to the agenda was the comment by Administrator Smith.

Resolution #01-04-2023: A Resolution Appointing Election Officials for 2023-2024. Motion by Alder Bell, second by Alder Kjos to approve Resolution #01-04-2023, A Resolution Appointing Election Officials for 2023-2024. Motion carried.

Resolution #01-04-2023A: A Resolution Designating the City of Boscobel Polling Place for all Elections in 2023-2024. Motion by Alder Bell, second by Alder Schneider to approve Resolution #01-04-2023A, A Resolution Designating the City of Boscobel Polling Place for all Elections in 2023-2024. Motion carried.

Resolution #01-04-2023B: A Resolution Combining Electoral Wards in the City of Boscobel for all Election in the Years 2023-2024. Motion by Alder Kjos, second by Alder Cashman to approve Resolution #01-04-2023B, A Resolution Combining Electoral Wards in the City of Boscobel for all Election in the Years 2023-2024. Motion carried.

DPW Report: Engineer/DPW Reynolds communicated that the December utility bills will be in the new statement format coming out in January. There will be a required single audit based on federal grant dollars received in 2022 over the \$750,000 limit. We received approximately \$800,000 in federal dollars and including state dollars received we are at 1.05 million dollars. Johnson and Block will complete that audit along with the City of Boscobel upcoming audit in late January 2023. Reynolds communicated on the utility rate increases. Within the year, the electric, water and wastewater will be reviewed. The electric may lag due to the new AMI system being installed. Reynolds would like that fully installed before we make any change to the electric rates. Late March to early April will be the time to start to review and plan timing. The water utility is not that bad off; however, we are seeing an increase in costs with the wastewater so that may change and it will be reviewed and decided by Common Council possibly mid-year 2023. The last increase with electric was around 2018 or 2019. The water was before that timeframe and wastewater probably 2014. We are at the bottom of the charges to the consumer compared with most municipalities.

Administrator's Report: City Administrator Smith communicated the deadline has ended for Declaration of Candidacy on January 3, 2023. There were no submissions to run against the current alderpersons. We will have a primary on February 21, 2023, as there will be candidates for Grant County Circuit Court Judge. We will launch Badger Books for this election. There will be a Badger Book training on January 11, 2023, with a small group of poll workers in attendance. Finalizing 2022 and then preparing for the upcoming audit.

Police Chief's Report: Chief McCullick was not in attendance but did provide a report in the packet. Administrator Smith commented on the snow removal policy specific to sidewalks within the city limits.

Library Director's Report: Director Miller reviewed the current program in conjunction with the Police Department called "Coffee with a Cop." This is a program to get the community involved in interactions with our Police Officers. The intent is to provide positive discussions regarding important topics that may impact our citizens such as how to avoid scams or what is the opioid epidemic like in our community. It will be held every third Thursday of the month at the Library. The first event will be January 17, 2023 @ 10:00am. Also, there is a giving tree at the library to assist underprivileged children with coats and hats. Director Miller also completed three out of four library classes.

Mayor's Report: None to report.

Committee Recommendations: None

Approve Application for Alcohol Beverage Operator's License: Approve application for alcohol beverage operator's license for Harpreet Singh, Toor, Sukhwinder E. Kour and Jaswinder Singh Toor for Toors Boscobel Mart Inc., 601 Elm St. Boscobel, WI 53805: Motion by Alder R. Brown, second by Alder Fritz to approve the applications for alcohol beverage operator's licenses for Harpreet Singh, Toor, Sukhwinder E. Kour and Jaswinder Singh Toor for Toors Boscobel Mart Inc., 601 Elm St. Boscobel, WI 53805. Motion carried.

Approve Licenses (if any): None.

Pay Requests: None

Monthly bills: Motion by Alder Schneider second by Alder Kjos to approve monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$432,262.61 of which are \$334,122.93 General Fund, \$70.00 from Donations Fund and \$98,069.68 from TID #4 Bank Payments. Upon roll call vote, all alders present voted aye. Motion carried 8-0.

Adjourn: Motion by Alder Bell, second by Alder Cashman to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26pm.

Date Published: _____

Brenda L. Kalish, Mayor

Patricia Smith, City Administrator