

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 27, 2021**

**(I) Call Meeting to Order**

In the absence of Mayor Brendan Pratt, Council President Matthew Biren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Regular Council Meeting was held via Zoom Teleconference/Video conference due to Corona-virus COVID-19.

**(II) Pledge of Allegiance**

Council President Biren led the Common Council and others in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**(III) Roll Call**

City Clerk Cindy Bauer called the roll. Council President Matt Biren, Council Members Dale Stuber, Timothy Lima, Maria Guzman, Tim Sexton and Susan Rowe were present. Also Present: Attorney Samual Bach-Hanson, City Administrator Michael Golat, City Engineer/Director of Public Works (CE/DPW) Dave Walter, City Planner Joshua Clements, Police Chief Kelly Bakken, Fire Chief Mark Renderman, Management Analyst Roy Atkinson, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Mayor Brendan Pratt

**(IV) Citizen Participation Period**

There being no Citizen Participation, motion by Rowe/Guzman to close the Citizen Participation Period.  
**Motion carried.**

**(V) Approval of minutes.**

Motion by Stuber/Guzman to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

**(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report**

City Administrator Golat commented that he along with some Council Members attended the Blue Ribbon Celebration that was held today (May 27, 2021) at the Altoona Intermediate School. The Proclamation was read by Council President Matt Biren.

Fire Chief Mark Renderman updated the Council on the Altoona Fire and Rescue Department chain of command/staff structure and the current staff roster.

Fire Chief Renderman reported on the following:

- Number of Fire/EMS calls to date and made a comparison from previous year at this time.
- Fire Inspection Report.

Police Chief Bakken reported on the following:

- Retirement of Sergeant Mark Duce on June 3, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.
- Bike Rodeo, June 6 at the High School Parking Lot.
- Two new Part Time Police Officers.
- Updated the Council on current Police cases.

City Planner Josh Clements commented on Planning and building projects.

**City Committee Reports – None.**

**(VII) Consent Agenda – None.**

**(VIII) Unfinished Business – None.**

**(IX) New Business**

**(1) Discuss/consider approval of Resolution 5A-21, a Preliminary Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Altoona, declaring intent to exercise its police powers pursuant to Section 66.0703 of Wisconsin Statutes to specially assess for the 2021 Bradwood Avenue Reconstruction project.**

CE/DPW David Walter explained Resolution 5A-21, a preliminary resolution of the Common Council of the City of Altoona, declaring intent to exercise its police powers pursuant to Section 66.0703 of Wisconsin Statutes to specially assess for the 2021 Bradwood Avenue Reconstruction project. Walter said the scope of the project includes reconstruction of Bradwood Avenue from 10th Street West to 7th Street West. Items included in the project consist of grading, gravel, asphaltic concrete paving, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk repair, sanitary sewer and appurtenances, water main and appurtenances, storm sewer, and lawn restoration. As in the past, Altoona has used the special assessment process to fund a portion of the project.

CE/DPW Walter noted that the first step in the special assessment process is for the Council to pass the preliminary resolution declaring intent to exercise its police powers pursuant to section 66.0703 of Wisconsin Statutes and setting the date of the public hearing on the assessment for June 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as is practical). The preliminary resolution also directs City staff to prepare a Preliminary Assessment Report, which includes a schedule of the proposed assessments. Walter noted that an informational meeting of the project was held May 18, 2021 to affected property owners to discuss the project.

Motion by Lima/Stuber to approve Resolution 5A-21, a preliminary resolution of the Common Council of the City of Altoona, declaring intent to exercise its police powers pursuant to Section 66.0703 of Wisconsin Statutes to specially assess for the 2021 Bradwood Avenue Reconstruction project and set the date for public hearing at 6:05 p.m. on June 10, 2021. **Motion carried.**

**(IX)(2) Discuss/consider extending hours of operation for outdoor weddings and events in River Prairie Park until 11 p.m on the following dates: June 5, 2021 (Wedding), June 12, 2021 (Cinder City Days), June 19, 2021 (Wedding), July 2, 2021 (Wedding), July 9, 2021 (Cowboy Jacks Special Event), August 14, 2021 (Wedding), September 11, 2021 (Wedding), and September 25, 2021 (Wedding).**

City Administrator Mike Golat explained that in 2018 and 2019, the Altoona Lions Club / King Pin Management were granted permission from the Council to extend the hours of operation in River Prairie Park until 11 p.m. for concerts. This summer there are a number of weddings and events that are seeking an extension of hours for the following dates with the addition of September 18, 2021 for Party on the Prairie:

**June 5, 2021 (Wedding)**

**June 12, 2021 (Cinder City Days)**

**June 19, 2021 (Wedding)**

**July 2, 2021 (Wedding)**

**July 9, 2021 (Cowboy Jacks Special Event)**

**August 14, 2021 (Wedding)**

**September 11, 2021 (Wedding)**

**September 18, 2021 (Party on the Prairie)**

**September 25, 2021 (Wedding)**

This year, the Altoona Lions Club would like to extend the hours of operation past 10:00 p.m. for their concert in River Prairie Park until 11 p.m. on **June 12, 2021**. Similarly, Cowboy Jack's is hosting an on-premise concert at their establishment and are seeking to extend their hours of operation past 10:00 p.m. for their concert until 11 p.m. on **July 9, 2021**.

King Pin Management also seeks to extend the hours of operation past 10:00 p.m. until 11 pm for weddings in the park for outdoor weddings on the following dates: **June 5th, June 19th, July 2nd, August 14th, September 11th, September 25<sup>th</sup>**.

According to **Chapter 12.28.010 of the Altoona Municipal Code**, there shall not be amplified noise before eight a.m. or after ten p.m. unless under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department or if express permission is granted by the City.

Council Member Stuber asked if the City could change the hours permanently to 11 p.m. instead of 10

p.m. Golat noted that the City would have to amend Section 12.28.010 of the Altoona Municipal Code to change the hours of amplified music. Other suggestions were to only change the hours to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Staff will research and bring back an Ordinance change at a future Council Meeting with suggested changes.

Motion by Rowe/Lima to approve extending hours of operation for outdoor weddings and events in River Prairie Park until 11 p.m on the following dates: June 5, 2021 (Wedding), June 12, 2021 (Cinder City Days), June 19, 2021 (Wedding), July 2, 2021 (Wedding), July 9, 2021 (Cowboy Jacks Special Event), August 14, 2021 (Wedding), September 11, 2021 (Wedding), and September 18, 2010 (Party on the Prairie), September 25, 2021 (Wedding). **Motion carried.**

**(IX)(3) Discuss/consider conceptual design of Fairfax Street.**

CE/DPW Walter explained that Fairfax Street, from Hamilton Avenue to Spooner Avenue, is scheduled for reconstruction in 2023. The project is a collaborative effort between the City of Eau Claire and the City of Altoona, and is funded in part by a Federal STP-U (Surface Transportation Program-Urban) grant awarded through the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization. The following sections describe the layout of the existing roadway, as well as some alternatives.

Existing Roadway

The existing road is 45 feet wide and consists of four lanes. The outside lanes are narrower than standard, decreasing the function of the road. Traffic volumes do not warrant a four-lane roadway. There are no sidewalks, except for a small portion adjacent to the Eastridge Center and the vacant building on the north end, and is very unwelcoming to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Preliminary Design

The preliminary design includes a 48-foot wide, three-lane facility with a center two-way left turn lane and on road bicycle lanes. This design provides for a five-foot sidewalk on each side, and retains the pedestrian refuge island adjacent to the Eastridge Center.

Alternative Design

Staff requested further review of the preliminary design to determine if a greater “road diet” could be applied, and if a multi-use path could be added to the corridor. The engineering consultant reviewed the traffic data further, and has advised staff that the final design could be reduced to a 37-foot wide, two lane design with on road bicycle lanes and an off-road multi-use path on the Altoona side of the city limits. A conceptual layout is attached for your consideration. While this design would eliminate the pedestrian refuge island adjacent to the Eastridge Center, the overall crossing width would be reduced. Addition of the multi-use trail would require some minor real estate acquisition which would be handled within the framework of the STP-U funding process. City of Eau Claire’s staff has expressed support of this design.

Staff is asking for direction from Council on which design to pursue, as the characteristics of the corridor will be set for decades to come. Addition of a multi-use trail aligns with the City’s goal of improving pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, and providing mobility choices. John Beckfield of CBS Squared, Inc., the engineering consultant on this project, was present at the Council Meeting to answer questions.

CE/DPW Walter noted that the STP-U program requires a public engagement process, which has not commenced. Depending on the outcome of public discussion with adjacent residents and business owners, staff may need to return to Council for further guidance. Discussion followed.

Motion by Rowe/Guzman to approve proceeding with a two-lane design for the Fairfax Street Reconstruction project, including on-road bike lanes, and a multi-use path on the east side. **Motion carried.**

**(X) Miscellaneous Business and Communication.**

Council Member Stuber commented that he received an email regarding Casey’s pump stations being open 24/7 and asked for clarification.

Matt Biren commented on the Veteran's Tribute Day Event to be held on Memorial Day in River Prairie Park.

Clerk Bauer noted that in addition to the June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meetings, there will be an additional Council Meeting on June 17, 2021 at 6 p.m. Plan Commission Meetings and Council Meetings starting June 8 (Plan) and June 10 (Council) will be held in person. The locations of those meetings will be held at the new Park & Rec Building (Fish House) located at 418 9<sup>th</sup> Street West until further notice (due to COVID)

**(XI) Adjournment.**

Motion by Sexton/Stuber to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by Cindy Bauer, City Clerk