

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 27, 2022**

**(I) Call Meeting to Order**

Mayor Brendan Pratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Regular Council Meeting was held via Zoom Teleconference/Video conference due to Coronavirus COVID-19.

**(II) Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Pratt led the Common Council and others in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**(III) Roll Call**

City Clerk Cindy Bauer called the roll. Mayor Brendan Pratt, Council Members Dale Stuber, Timothy Lima, Maria Guzman, Matthew Biren, Tim Sexton, and Susan Rowe were present.

Also Present: City Attorney John Behling, City Administrator Mike Golat, Assistant City Administrator Roy Atkinson, City Planner Joshua Clements, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

**(IV) Citizen Participation Period**

Motion by Rowe/Lima to close the Citizen Participation Period. **Motion carried.**

**(V) Approval of minutes.**

Motion by Lima/Guzman to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022, Regular Council Meeting. **Motion carried.**

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

City Administrator Golat reported on the following:

- The City applied for a Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant Application for the downtown Altoona business area and the Altoona Emergency Services Building extension. The city will be notified around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February if the grant application was approved.
- The Altoona Emergency Services Building will be a COVID Testing clinic on Weds from 4-7 p.m. and Sundays from 12 noon – 4p.m.
- Crockicurl National Championship on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at River Prairie Park.

City Engineer/Director of Public Works Dave Walter commented that the WisDOT sent out letters last week regarding the bi-partisan infrastructural law funding. There will be a significant pool of money that will be available for funding.

**City Committee Reports – None.**

**(VII) Consent Agenda**

**(1) Discuss/consider approval of a Consent Agreement with Xcel Energy to allow construction of electrical service items within an existing City of Altoona easement located on outlots by Woodman's.**

Motion by Lima/Rowe to approve Consent Agenda Item 1. **Motion carried.**

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

**(IX) New Business**

**(1) Discuss/consider a temporary amendment to City's sick leave policy to award an additional 40 hours of sick leave to permanent full-time employees that contract COVID-19.**

City Administrator Golat explained that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 spreads more easily than previous variants and also appears to infect vaccinated individuals at a higher rate than previous variants. Therefore, the cases of COVID in the region and among City of Altoona employees has spiked significantly over the past few weeks.

City Administrator Golat noted that last year, before vaccinations were available, the city had an emergency order in place that granted an additional 40 hours of sick leave to those that became infected with COVID or were exposed to someone with COVID in the course of completing official City business. The emergency order was lifted after vaccinations became available. Administration is requesting that the sick leave policy be amended. Originally City Administrator Golat was asking for an amendment to grant permanent full-time employees that become infected with COVID-19 an additional 40 hours of sick leave. But upon further review of the full-time employee's sick leave balances, Golat noted that the employees that might need the additional 40 hours would be non-police union employees with less than one year of tenure and police union employees with less than 18 months of tenure. The remainder of the full-time permanent employees have enough sick time accumulated. Golat is also requesting that the amendment be retroactive 3 months.

Motion by Lima/Stuber to approve a temporary amendment to City's sick leave policy as discussed to award an additional 40 hours of sick leave to non-police union employees with less than one year of tenure and police union employees with less than 18 months of tenure that contract COVID-19 and to provide discretion to City Administrator to discontinue when deemed in best interest of city, and make retroactive 3 months for those that have been affected. **Motion carried.**

**(IX)(2) Discuss/consider convening in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.**

**A. Discuss offer on property owned by Union Pacific Railroad**

Motion by Lima/Rowe to convene in closed session at 6:28 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(e). Roll call vote, 6-ayes, Stuber, Lima, Guzman, Biren, Sexton, Rowe, 0-nays. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**(IX)(3) Motion to reconvene to Open Session.**

Motion by Biren/Guzman to reconvene in open session at 6:40 p.m. Roll call vote, 6-ayes, Biren, Rowe, Stuber, Sexton, Lima, Guzman, 0-nays. **Motion carried 6-0.**

City Administrator Golat commented that Council discussed one item relating to the purchase of property from the Union Pacific Railroad.

Motion by Biren/Rowe to authorize staff to prepare an offer for the mayor's signature to purchase property owned by Union Pacific Railroad consistent with the appraisal amount with the contingency of an acceptable Phase One Environmental Assessment. **Motion carried.**

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

None.

**(XI) Adjournment.**

Motion by Lima/Rowe to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by Cindy Bauer, City Clerk