

**CITY OF ALTOONA, WI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 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: Attorney Sam Bach-Hanson, City Administrator Mike Golas, Assistant City Administrator Roy Atkinson, City Planner Joshua Clements, Police Chief Kelly Bakken, Library Director Arin Wilken, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

Motion by Rowe/Stuber to close Citizen Participation Period.

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Stuber/Lima to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried.

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report

City Administrator updated the Council on Administration activities.

- Attended Affordable Housing Zoning Seminar recently sponsored by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.
- Thanked those members that attended the East Neighborhood Workshop, Feb. 17, 2022.
- Attended the Chamber's State of the City of Eau Claire last week.
- Finalizing City's Work Plan to be presented at a future Council Meeting.

Assistant City Administrator Roy Atkinson mentioned the Jelly Bean Hill Challenge event starting at 1:30 p.m. at Jelly Bean Hill on Saturday, Feb 26, 2022.

City Planner Josh Clements commented on the East Neighborhood Workshop. Materials will be available on the City's Website. Currently working on the draft of the Altoona Comp Plan.

City Committee Reports – None.

(VII) Consent Agenda

(1) Discuss/consider amending the premise description on the "Class B" Combination Liquor and Beer License issued to Rolly's Coach Club, located at 2239 Spooner Ave, to include the parking lot for the following date only: Oct. 16, 2021. (Scrivener's error – should have been March 5, 2022)

City Clerk Bauer explained that Rolly Knusalla, owner of Rolly's Coach Club, 2239 Spooner Avenue, is asking for an amendment to his current "Class B" Liquor and Beer license premise description to include his parking lot for the following date only: March 5, 2022 for the annual Sisko Family Benefit. Rolly Knusalla (Rolly's) is aware that alcohol may not leave the premises. It will be noted on the license that open containers may not be carried off the premises. Mr. Knusalla has asked for similar amendments in the past to host other events, and the events have not resulted in any problems. The Altoona Police Department does not have any concerns with this request.

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

(VIII) Unfinished Business – None.**(IX) New Business****(1) 2021 Police Department Report presented by Police Chief Kelly Bakken.**

Police Chief Bakken gave a power point presentation on the 2021 Police Department year end summary report. Council Members were provided with a detailed written report prior to the Council Meeting and will be available upon request.

(IX)(2) Discuss/consider Resolution 2A-22, Receipt of Petition for Annexation by One-Half Approval and Referral to the Plan Commission for Temporary Zoning Assignment.

City Planner Josh Clements referred to the enclosed proposed Resolution 2A-22 and Petition for Annexation by One-Half Approval, #14476. Clements explained that the City has prepared a petition for annexation by one-half approval and provided the required notice. Pursuant to Altoona Municipal Code, a temporary zoning assignment is to be applied to newly annexed lands. Per Wis Stats. § 66.0217(8)(a), temporary zoning assignments must be referred to the Plan Commission for their recommendation. The proposed Resolution 2A-22 formally acknowledges receipt of the petition for annexation and refers the matter to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission is scheduled to meet on March 8, 2022.

City Planner Clements noted that following their recommendation, the Annexation Ordinance may be considered by the City Council. This is tentatively scheduled for March 10. If the Annexation Ordinance is adopted, the matter is to be referred to the Plan Commission for a public hearing for rezoning, for Council consideration within 120 days of the annexation date.

Motion by Rowe/Lima to approve Resolution 2A-22. **Motion carried.**

(IX)(3) Discuss/consider City of Altoona masking and meeting policies related to the COVID-19 epidemic.

City Administrator Golat explained that currently the City requires masking for employees and visitors to City facilities in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Staff members are also required to wear masks while working closely with others. Further, the City suspended in-person council and other committee meetings as a safety precaution to reduce the spread of COVID. Recently several area public entities have modified their masking and/or meeting policies. It also appears that the CDC is considering changing their masking recommendations as new COVID cases decline even while overall case numbers remain very high. UWEC and all affiliated state universities are moving to a mask optional policy. UWEC is implementing the mask optional policy beginning March 11, 2022. CVTC implemented a similar policy on February 17, 2022 and Eau Claire Area Schools have also transitioned to mask optional. Altoona schools have had a mask-optional policy for some time. Many businesses and institutions have also returned to meeting in-person.

City Administrator Golat further mentioned that there has been input from the public related to the City's mask policy, especially at the library, as it appears a significant percentage of the population are ready to come back to library programming, especially for the smaller children who have missed story-time during COVID. Staff is putting this item on the agenda to get feedback and direction from Council related to the mask policy and moving back to meeting in person.

Council Members voiced their opinions regarding the possibility of having in-person Council meetings. Consensus of Council Members was to make masks optional and go back to in-person Council meetings.

Staff will further explore the feasibility of a hybrid upgrade to the Council Chambers for in-person and zoom meeting attendance.

Motion by Biren/Stuber to remove the mask mandate and replace with masks are optional, and move forward with in person meetings. **Motion carried.**

(IX)(4) 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. Acquisition of property for City uses – 1220 3rd St. E.**

Motion by Stuber/Lima to convene in closed session at 7:07 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)(5) Motion to reconvene to Open Session.

Motion by Rowe/Lima to reconvene in open session at 7:18 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 acquisition of property for City uses at 1220 3rd S. E. No action.

(X) Miscellaneous Business and Communication.

None.

(XI) Adjournment.

Motion by Lima/Rowe to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by Cindy Bauer, City Clerk