

Approved

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

April 3, 2020

Brillion City Center

4:00 pm

Due to the Governor's Safer at Home Emergency Order #12 and in the interest of public health and safety, members of the Council and the public were attending by access through Go to Meeting.

CALL ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Edinger called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Mayor Edinger, Alderpersons Carried Wenzel, Joe Levash, Betty Nies, Joe Behnke, Tim Hanson (via Go to Meeting) and Sarah Pielhop (via Go to Meeting). Also present were City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Lori Gosz, Police Chief Kirk Schend, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director Joe Dienor, Park & Recreation Director Ann Marx and Library Director Rachel Hitt (via Go to Meeting).

Guests:

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion – Levash moved to approve the agenda as printed and circulated. Seconded by Behnke. Call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER COST OF LABOR FORCE DURING SAFER AT HOME EMERGENCY ORDER #12:

Mayor Edinger stated when the City State of Emergency was ordered, it was determined to pay the employees of the Brillion Community Center and Library for the hours they were scheduled to work until April 6, 2020. The Council will need to determine how those employees will be paid for the remainder of the Governor's Safer at Home Order.

Marx reported that Alanna Ortiz has been coming in during the close to do some work as she can. She is home with her children. Ortiz has no paid vacation leave to use. Marx reported there is a lot of cleaning and repair work at the Community Center that can be done during the closure. She reported that Larry Van Frachen has been coming in to do basic cleaning, however there are other cleaning and painting that can be done. There is work for those employees that can work.

Mayor Edinger stated he checked with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities on this. Other communities are repurposing jobs for employees to do. Marx stated the Community Center employees can be offered to work the set amount of scheduled hours, not work at their convenience.

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Pielhop stated she contact State Representative Ron Tusler. The State will be increasing the unemployment funding. If employees are laid off, they have the right to take family leave or unemployment.

Peilhop suggested the part time employees can help clean the buildings so that when we do open the buildings to the public they are clean and sanitized. She suggested that employees can also work as poll workers. Gosz explained the State requires that anyone working as a poll worker be trained by the City Clerk. She reported the Governor has order the National Guard to take training over the weekend and be available to all the Counties to help as poll workers. She stated she requested 2 National Guard members to help with the City's election. Gosz stated she has 3 City poll workers who are willing to work. Gosz will also work as needed.

Pielhop suggested that part time employees be trained to do payroll rather than outsource it. Gosz stated she suggested outsourcing payroll as long-term restructuring not just during the COVID-19 crisis. Behnke stated part time employees cannot be trained to do payroll as it requires that the employee be bonded.

Hitt explained the Library Board will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 to determine the compensation for the Library employees. Hitt stated she received information from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) on what Library employees can do. She was informed that only Library basic services, processing payroll and paying bills can be done. Hitt stated she is following the guidance of the DPI. Hitt stated some of her staff is at high risk catagories. She has not heard of other libraries using staff for other purposes in the City. Nies asked if they could come in to do cleaning. Hitt stated from what DPI advised staff an only due the basic operations. There might be some things she can have them do from their homes.

Chief Schend stated President Trump on March 27, 2020 signed the CARES Act which provides support to families and businesses during the pandemic, which addresses some of the Council's concerns.

Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director Diener state with the Safer at Home Order, only essential department can continue to works; the City Center and Department of Public Works are consider essential. Gosz suggested the Community Center employees be offer work under the direction of the Public Works Director Andy Geiger. Buildings and grounds are part of the Department of Public Works.

Motion – Levash move to have City employees affected by the Safer at Home Order be offered work for the Department of Public Works, if they are unable to work they take medical leave or file for unemployment. Seconded by Nies.

Hanson questioned how many employees this affects. Marx stated 8-10 at the Brillion Community Center. She stated there is enough work for those employees to do on the buildings and grounds.

Motion - Levash moved to amend his motion to include that this be only until the Safer at Home Order is complete. Seconded by Nies.

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Pielhop voices concern on employees wanting to be laid off to be able to claim unemployment.

Chief Schend stated the CARES Act stated it does not affect the City unemployment. Gosz explained the City doesn't pay unemployment unless a claim is filed.

Roll call vote. 6 votes cast. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

It was asked if the Library employees can do essential work for the Department of Public Works. Levash suggested obtaining legal opinion on who has the authority over the Library staff during emergency situations.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Lori M. Gosz
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer