

CITY OF SHULLSBURG, WISCONSIN
COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2025

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Shullsburg was held January 15, 2025 in the Community Room of the Shullsburg Community Townsend Center, 190 N. Judgement Street, Shullsburg, Wisconsin. Mayor Verne Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Notice of the meeting was posted at the Townsend Center, Shullsburg Post Office and Turpin's Home Town Grocery. Roll Call- Gloria Swenson, Emmett Reilly, Cheryl Mulcahy, Dan Morrissey - Present. Others present- Nathan Russell, Andy Foley, Dave Leahy, Joel Post, Cody Hoppenjan, Cassidy Reilly, Janelle Jackson, Taryn Apodaca, Emily Pedley-Fecht, and Janelle Schumacher.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – *Motion by Reilly second by Mulcahy to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 Council Meeting. All aye, motion carried.*

Committee Reports – None given.

Police Report – A report had been emailed, and there were no further questions. Reilly commented that there is a new employee working as an administrative assistant in the police department.

Approve Bills – *Motion by Morrissey second by Swenson to approve the bills for General, Water, Sewer, Electric, Pool, Museum, Library & TIF Funds. All aye, motion carried.*

Public Comment – None

Zoning Violation at 148 W. Water Street – Attorney Nathan Russell approached the Council to discuss the ongoing zoning violation at 148 W. Water Street. He confirmed the owners had been notified of the fines and their own legal counsel had responded. Russell shared his concerns about the soundness of the structure and informed the Council they may need to hire an outside company to remediate the zoning violation. He directed the Council to have the building inspector take action on the building code violations and give his own report to the Council, but believes the Council's next step is to file a lawsuit with the court to gain access to the building and ensure the building is compliant with the zoning ordinance. *Motion by Reilly second by Morrissey to authorize legal counsel to file a lawsuit against the owners of 148 W. Water Street in order to remediate the zoning violation. All aye, motion carried.*

Closed Session – *At 6:47 p.m. a motion was made by Morrissey second by Reilly to convene into closed session.* Roll Call - Morrissey-yes, Swenson-yes, Reilly-yes, Jackson-yes, Mulcahy-yes. Motion carried. Closed Session is Pursuant to Wis. Stat 19.85 (1)(c) for the Purpose of Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee over which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility- Discussion on Union Employment Agreement

Open Session – *At 7:21 p.m. a motion was made by Mulcahy second by Reilly to reconvene into open session.* Roll Call- Morrissey-yes, Swenson-yes, Reilly-yes, Jackson-yes, Mulcahy- yes. Motion carried.

Action on Closed Session – *Motion by Reilly second by Morrissey to issue a bonus to one employee as discussed. All aye, motion carried.*

Public Comment – Dave Leahy asked for the floor to address a previously discussed item on the agenda. Mayor Jackson agreed to a comment period of three minutes. Leahy shared his opinion and support of the City Council doing whatever it takes to remedy the condition of the building at 148 W. Water Street and believes what they are doing will make Shullsburg better. As a neighbor to the property, and a tax payer, he wants to see the condition of the property improve.

EMC Insurance Policy Renewal – Cody Hoppenjan discussed the City's property and inland marine insurance policies as well as provided options to increase the deductible from \$2500 to \$5000, \$10,000 or \$25,000. Reilly suggested an increase in the deductible and there was a brief discussion regarding that option. *Motion by Morrissey second by Swenson to renew the insurance policy as presented and keep the deductible the same. Morrissey, Swenson, Mulcahy – aye, Reilly – no; motion carried.*

Townsend Center Landscaping – Joel Post from Green Escapes presented the Council with an updated estimate for landscaping work around the Townsend Center to include limestone edging around the beds. The Council discussed the proposed patio and whether the library would help pay for the patio. Morrissey would like to see a different estimate with the patio removed and have that estimate given directly to the library. A new estimate in the amount of \$20,152 will be provided and it takes into consideration that city employees will remove existing plantings and some sod. It also takes into consideration having landscape rock installed, instead of mulch. *Motion by Morrissey second by Reilly to approve the proposal with the changes as discussed. All aye, motion carried.*

Advance Shullsburg Special Event Sip & Snack Application and Temporary “Class B” Wine License – *Motion by Reilly second by Mulcahy to approve the Sip & Snack Application and Temporary “Class B” Wine License for March 1, 2025. All aye, motion carried.*

Johnson Block Service Agreement for 2024 Audit – *Motion by Reilly second by Swenson to approve the Johnson Block Service Agreement for the 2024 Audit. All aye, motion carried.*

Music in the Park Donation – *Motion by Reilly second by Mulcahy to approve a \$300 donation to Music in the Park. All aye, motion carried.*

Municipal Fee Schedule – The Council discussed changes to the Municipal Fee schedule to include swim team fees in the amount of \$40 with a season pool pass and \$50 without a season pool pass. *Motion by Reilly second by Swenson to approve the 2025 Municipal Fee Schedule. All aye, motion carried.*

Vacating an Abandoned Right-of-Way – The Council introduced Resolution 2025-01 to vacate an abandoned right of way between East High Street and East Main Street. A public hearing will be set for March 19, 2025. *Motion by Morrissey second by Reilly to approve introducing Resolution 2025-.01. All aye, motion carried.*

Payment of Annual Assessments – *Motion by Morrissey second by Reilly to approve payment of the annual assessments to the Shullsburg Fire District and Shullsburg Ambulance District. All aye, motion carried.*

Clerk/Treasurer Report – Monthly financial reports were emailed; a Primary election will be required for one state office and is being held on February 18th. Absentee ballots will be mailed out next week.

Closed Session – *At 7:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mulcahy second by Reilly to convene into closed session. Roll Call - Morrissey-yes, Swenson-yes, Reilly-yes, Jackson-yes, Mulcahy-yes. Motion carried. Closed Session is Pursuant to Wis. Stat 19.85 (1)(c) for the Purpose of Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee over which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility- Discussion of Swim Team Coaches*

Open Session – *At 8:38 p.m. a motion was made by Swenson second by Mulcahy to reconvene into open session. Roll Call- Morrissey-yes, Swenson-yes, Reilly-yes, Jackson-yes, Mulcahy- yes. Motion carried.*

Action on Closed Session – None

At 8:38 p.m. a motion was made by Swenson second by Mulcahy to adjourn. All aye, motion carried.

Janelle Schumacher
Clerk/Treasurer