



**CITY OF DELAFIELD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COMMON COUNCIL**

*Mayor: Kent Attwell
Council President: Alderperson Tim Aicher
Alderspersons: Wayne Dehn, Matt Grimmer, Danielle Henry, Paul Price, Mark Schaefer, Jackie Valde*

January 23, 2023

5:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers
500 Genesee St.

**Special Meeting
DRAFT**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Alderspersons Present: Danielle Henry, Ald. D1
Mark Schaefer, Ald. D2
Jackie Valde, Ald. D3
Wayne Dehn, Ald. D4
Matt Grimmer, Ald. D5
Tim Aicher, Ald. D7

Alderspersons Absent: Paul Price, Ald. D6

Also Present: Kent Attwell, Mayor
Tom Hafner, City Administrator/Director of Public Works

4. City of Delafield Citizen Comments

HNF

5. Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 2023-02, A Resolution Authorizing A Referendum For The City Of Delafield To Establish A Fire Protection And Emergency Medical Services Fee Beginning On The December 2023 Tax Bill That Funds The 2024 Budget And Continuing On An Ongoing Basis

Hafner explained that the explanation portion of the resolution would not be included per the County Clerk. The City attorney did not necessarily agree, but in order to expedite the process and meet deadlines accordingly, it would be best to approve an updated resolution with a referendum question that incorporates the explanation into the question. The County clerk did also express that the question wording does not normally include the explanation. The ballot will be long, particularly in the Oconomowoc School District where there will be two additional questions on the ballot. Those 300 voters will likely have two ballots. The County Clerk noted the wording was longer, but Hafner stated that what is included in the question and explanation is important for the voters and he suggested it remain on the ballot. A resident also indicated confusion as to whether the proposed fee was a one-time fee or an annual fee. Hafner suggested including the proposed verbiage in the presented resolution 2023-02 that adds clarification regarding the fee being an annual fee.

Grimmer suggested possible removal of the Emergency Services Equivalent (ESE) unit definition verbiage. Discussion occurred regarding the removal. Valde noted that the column width in the County Clerk example of the City referendum question does not match the number of characters that was on an example of a previous question on an actual ballot provided by the County Clerk. Schaefer stated the removal of the ESE verbiage is concerning because if a voter were to come in without in the information before the election, the information is not defined elsewhere.

Schneider noted that the full explanation and resolution is provided on the Type D Notice of Referendum which is displayed at the polling location. This was utilized often by electors when looking for information on past referendum questions. Hafner is concerned about voters not asking appropriate questions and voting no due to lack of knowledge.

Aicher thought the resolution verbiage read clearly and holds the answers to questions that most residents will have. The City should not adjust the question based on what other municipalities or the state will be doing. The residents will see there is an offset with the levy.

Hafner suggested removing the ESE definition details beyond the single-family definition. Aicher suggested eliminating everything from "duplex." Valde noted the bulk of voters will those with a single-family unit and agreed that this provides the basic information necessary for voters and it is important to include what a no vote means.

Grimmer pointed out that there will still be items left out and supported removing the the verbiage which follows "A single-family home and residential condominium unit would constitute one (1) emergency service equivalent unit." Specifically, to strike "A duplex would constitute two (2) emergency service equivalent units. The City would adopt a fee schedule for all non-residential parcels based on structural square footage. This fee does not apply to vacant parcels." Schaefer suggested that those that are in commercial buildings, apartments or churches would be more likely to pursue the external education materials for clarification.

Hafner pointed out that that information would still be available in the explanation portion of the resolution, which would be in the notice at the polls.

Grimmer pointed out that the verbiage should be a single-family home OR residential condo. Valde agreed this clarification was appropriate.

Schaefer suggested removing the verbiage referencing statutes "Wisconsin Statutes authorize the City of Delafield to assess a fee for fire protection and emergency medical services." The Common Council was unsure as to whether removing this was appropriate as this could be required to be in the referendum language.

Motion by Aicher, seconded by Grimmer, to approve Resolution 2023-02, A Resolution Authorizing A Referendum For The City Of Delafield To Establish A Fire Protection And Emergency Medical Services Fee Beginning On The December 2023 Tax Bill That Funds The 2024 Budget And Continuing On An Ongoing Basis, with the following changes to the verbiage - to add the references to an annual fee as presented on January 23, 2023, to replace the word "and" with "or" in reference to a single-family home versus residential condominium and to strike the verbiage beginning with "A duplex would constitute two (2) emergency service equivalent units. The City would adopt a fee schedule for all non-residential parcels based on structural square footage. This fee does not apply to vacant parcels."

Discussion: Clerk Schneider pointed out that the explanatory statement verbiage mirrored the question verbiage and asked if the word "and" should be changes to "or" in that portion as well.

Aicher amended the motion, to include the verbiage change of replacing the word "and" with "or" in reference to a single-family home versus residential condominium in the explanation portion of the resolution as well. Grimmer seconded the amendment.

All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Schneider
City Clerk