

**City of Oconomowoc**  
**Committee-Of-The-Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**May 03, 2022 - 6:00 PM**



**Aldermen Present:** Karen Spiegelberg, Matt Mulder, Charles Schellpeper, Lou Kowieski, Chris Douglas, Matt Rosek, Jennifer Aultman Kloth, Kevin Ellis

**Also Present:** Robert Magnus, Diane Coenen, Robert Duffy, Mark Frye, Jason Gallo, James Pfister, Joe Pickart, Laurie Sullivan-Murray, Ivan Lam, Stan Riffle, Brad Bowen, Charlie Shaw, Jeff Roemer

Mayor Magnus called the Committee-Of-The-Whole Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**Call to order and confirmation of appropriate meeting notification**

**Committee Business**

**a. Discussion on Ordinance 22-O1034 to Amend Section 2.01(2) of the City of Oconomowoc Municipal Code Concerning Common Council Meeting Start Time**

The Committee discussed the effects of changing the Council meeting to 7 PM, use of staff time, ability to arrive earlier for sub-Committee meetings, tradition and moving sub-Committees to another day. The Committee agreed they were neutral on the change and that there was no need to bring this change forward to Council.

**b. Discussion on Western Lakes Fire District Funding Options and Memorandum of Understanding Between Owner Municipalities**

Magnus reported the MOU was drafted by Riffle as a recap of the Inter-Municipal Agreement to help make clear what happens if all owners do not agree to fund the \$6.3M budget increase WLF D is asking for. The owners have not yet met to discuss this issue but will be meeting on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The WLF D meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> will present survey results to the owners. Magnus also noted the City's portion of the \$6.3M ask is \$2.3M and the effect to the taxpayer would be \$80 per \$100K of assessed value, which is a 17% increase on the mill rate. Riffle stated Council can choose to move the MOU on to the other municipalities or not. Roemer stated he is concerned with the purpose of the MOU and feels it does not address the objective. Shaw agrees with Roemer. The Committee feels the MOU is complicating things and a summary/bullet point sheet for talking purposes would be sufficient to help elected officials explain the referendum request to their constituents. Magnus stated if the budget request is over 4%, all owners have veto power and the State regulates how much we can increase our levy and that is why WLF D is looking at an August referendum. He noted the referendum would be non-binding. Council must decide by end of May to move forward with a referendum because the referendum language has a May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to be on the August ballot. Bowen referred to the spirit of cooperation between the owners to balance the budget and restated anything over a 4% increase needs full support of all owners. He also noted there are other options besides a referendum. The Committee suggested each owner should provide questions to Bowen before the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**c. Closed Session:**

Motion to convene in to Closed Session per Wis State Stat 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 regarding

discussion/authorization for Oconomowoc Area School District land purchase and acquisition of rights in real property, specifically related to Tax Parcel OCOC 0614980004, as authorized by Wis. Stats. 62.22(1m) made by Mulder and seconded by Ellis. Motion carried 8-0-0.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Mulder and seconded by Spiegelberg.

Motion carried 8-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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Minutes taken by Diane Coenen, City Clerk