**City of Bloomer**

**Regular Meeting of the Common Council**

1503 Main Street

Bloomer, WI 54724

January 27th, 2021, 5:15 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Bloomer was called to order on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall, 1503 Main Street – Mayor Koehler presiding.

Roll call was taken: Mayor Koehler, Aldermen Meinen, Bauch, Reischel, Baribeau, and Administrator Frion were all present. Attorney Gierhart was absent.

All present gave pledge to the flag.

Bauch made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13th, 2021, regular meeting as presented. Baribeau seconded the motion and all present voted aye.

Meinen made a motion to approve all claims against the City and Utilities as presented. Reischel seconded the motion and all present voted aye. The claims were in the amounts listed below:

Checks Numbered: 86688 - 86746

General Fund: $ 87,948.46

Electric Fund: $ 333,010.29

Water Fund: $ 5,913.54

Sewer Fund: $ 11,534.49

Payroll $ 70,300.14

TOTAL $ 508,706.92

Frion stated that the new City website should be up and running within the next month. Ordinances will eventually be published on the website along with residents being able to view and pay their utility bill online. Utility workers have been declared essential workers and will be part of the 1b phase in receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Discussion regarding the usage and the maintenance of the Bloomer baseball field took place. The lease agreement with the Bloomer School District has not been reviewed since 2004. The Bloomer Woodticks baseball team also utilizes the field for their games. There are some maintenance items that should be addressed in order to keep the field up to par for continual usage by both parties. It was suggested that a separate lease agreement should be drawn up for the Bloomer Woodticks. Administrator Frion will work with legal counsel to draft revised lease agreements and bring forward at a future meeting for consideration.

Motion by Baribeau to amend the Employee Handbook – Retirement to read:

1. The City shall contribute twelve and a half percent (12.5%) of all non-represented, full-time employee’s regular hourly wage, including full-time Library staff, to the respective employee’s pension plan based on a standard 2,080 hour calendar work-year. For the purpose of calculating retirement hour contributions, paid time off such as vacation, holiday, sick leave, and funeral leave shall be included. Pension contributions shall be paid by the City on a bi-weekly payroll basis, to the employee’s retirement fund as determined by the Common Council.

Employees hired prior to January 1st, 2021, were given an opportunity to ‘opt-in’ to the Wisconsin State Retirement system (WRS) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds.

Effective January 1st, 2021, the City of Bloomer is required to cover employees who ‘opted-in’ and anyone hired on or after January 1st, 2021, under the Wisconsin State Retirement system (WRS) if the employee meets WRS participation standards:

* + - * 1. If the employee was employed by a WRS employer before July 1, 2011, to qualify for WRS coverage the employee shall be expected to work for at least one full year and at least one-third of full-time (600 hours).
        2. If the employee began employment with a WRS-employer on or after July 1, 2011, to qualify for WRS coverage the employee shall be expected to work for at least one full year and at least two-thirds of full-time (1,200 hours).
        3. If neither criterion is expected to be met upon hire, the employee shall only be enrolled if he/she subsequently works at least 12-months, and in any 12-month period meets the hour requirement.

Enrollment shall occur on the date of which eligibility is met as described above.

Once eligible, coverage is mandatory and an employee may not “opt out” of WRS. Both the City of Bloomer and the general municipal employee are required to pay “one half of the actuarially required contributions determined by the Employee Trust Funds.” Employee contributions are made through payroll deduction and are deducted on a pre-tax basis.

Bauch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion by Reischel to adjourn. Meinen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sandra L. Frion

City Administrator