

**CITY OF CORNELL
MINUTES OF COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

7:00 p.m. Mayor Mark Larson called the regular council meeting to order at the City Council Chambers. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence honoring all individuals that have or are protecting our freedom. Minutes taken by Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer DeJongh.

Council members present: Steve Turany, Terry Smith, Debra Semanko, Bill Kvapil, Sandra Schecklman and Floyd Hickethier.

Guests present: Ginna Young, Nicole Schwingle, Matt Hansen, Pam Guthman & Vicki Christianson..

Motion Hickethier, Seconded Smith to accept the agenda as printed. Carried 6 ayes.

Motion Smith, seconded Kvapil to approve the regular council meeting minutes of September 5, 2024 with the suggested change by Council member Schecklman. Carried 6 ayes.

Turany reported on two Finance Committee meetings of September 16th and 19th. Committee met in closed session to consider police department employment.

Chippewa County Forest Administrator Matt Hansen was at meeting to follow-up his presentation from a couple months ago on Chippewa County applying for grants to acquire roughly 2500 acres of land for recreational purposes. He is visiting local governmental bodies to see if there is support for this and to answer questions. The biggest concern is the loss of real estate taxes that the school district would lose and have to be made up by the other taxpayers thought to be \$44 per \$100,000 of value. Mayor and Council felt they needed more input from residents possibly a public hearing and/or a referendum.

Nicole Schwingle from the school inquired about getting permission to have the color run on city streets as part of Homecoming.

Motion Kvapil, Seconded Smith to allow color run on city streets along with use of the Mill Yard parking lot for a bonfire as part of Homecoming activities. Carried 6 ayes.

Motion Schecklman, Seconded Turany to approve hiring Samantha Caswell as a marketing manager for the City of Cornell wage \$18/hr. with a maximum of 600 hours a year, no benefits except mileage reimbursement. Carried 6 ayes. Mayor Larson thanked Sandra Schecklman for her work on getting this done.

Motion Kvapil, Seconded Smith to renew contract with Chippewa Humane Association for 2025 to provide humane animal services for \$1.15 per capita. Carried 6 ayes.

Motion Hickethier, Seconded Smith to approve bills totaling \$61,624.30. Roll Call Vote Carried 6 ayes.

DeJongh mentioned that Chippewa County Public Health department is looking to partner with local governments to educate residents on nitrates and do testing to insure safe drinking water.

Forthcoming Events.

- Overview of “Day in the Life” Chip Cty Human Services – Oct 29th.
- Trunk or Treat event at Mill Yard Park – Oct. 31st.
- Cornell ATV Club is sponsoring a benefit Poker Run on Oct 5th.

Pam Guthman, our Chippewa County Board representative provided an update on what is happening at the county level

Motion Smith, Seconded Hickethier to adjourn. Carried 6 ayes.

Adjourned at 8:03 pm

Date Approved

Mark Larson, Mayor

David DeJongh, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer