

**Members Present:** Sloan, Kent, Petty

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Mayor Nelson, Adm. Bradley, Clerk Zeman, J. Ostrander, W. Peterson

**Call to Order** –Ald. Sloan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. noting compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021 and carried unanimously. Moved by Kent, seconded by Petty to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Action Items**

- a) **Accounts Payable** – Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council for approval of the accounts payable for **\$6,693,069.10** (12/28/21 = \$921,125.00 and 1/11/22 = \$5,771,944.10) Motion carried unanimously.
  
- b) **DNR Agreement** – W. Peterson noted that this is the same agreement that was brought before the committee last year and back in 2018. This agreement is part of the requirement of applying for the Lead Service Replacement Program. We are increasing the per service amount to be \$4,000; anything above this will be the homeowner’s expense. In an attempt to be more aggressive this year, we have increased the agreement from \$90,000 up to \$160,000. We currently have about 600 services left to be replaced. W. Peterson explained that once the service has been replaced, we submit to the State for reimbursement; we cannot use utility funds to help with the homeowner’s side. There is currently an ordinance before Council that will allow the City to require replacement of lead services. If this ordinance is approved, the City will be able to require homeowner’s do this. Moved by Kent, seconded by Petty to recommend to Council the approval of the Departments of Revenue Principal Forgiveness Water Service Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

**Informational Items**

- Review the City’s COVID-19 Policy  
Ald. Petty noted that with the continuing increase in positive cases, Sauk County transmission level remains high. Adm. Bradley explained that OSHA has ruled municipalities are exempt from the 100-employee vaccine mandate. Ald. Sloan questioned mandating the masks which have very little scientific evidence of doing anything but we don’t bother to mandate the vaccine which we have tons of scientific evidence showing the vaccine works. Ald. Petty agrees that the vaccine and social distancing are encouraged; however any medical issue that he has read always recommends masking. Ald. Kent feels having the policy in place is silly busy work. Ald. Sloan questioned the risk of putting the City in the middle of anyone requesting an exemption from the mask requirement. Adm. Bradley also noted that there was a request to look at the current policy regarding leave time for school and/or daycare closing due to COVID. The current policy does not include any paid leave COVID leave for schools and/or daycare closing. The committee does not feel it’s in the City’s best interest to add this paid leave. After review and discussion, the committee decided to take no future action on the City’s COVID-19 policy; the policy will remain as is.
  
- Update on the City’s 2023 Budget  
Adm Bradley advised that the City has been levying for both general fund and TID debt. Obviously the TIDs pay their own debt. These “excess” funds have been used in the general operating funds. The City had the ability to levy for GO Bonds, even though we had a different revenue source paying for the debt. Adm. Bradley presented the budget publications vs the Levy Limit Worksheet, showing the difference of debt that was levied for. TID #6 and #8 debt is being retired in 2022, leaving a substantial shortfall in our budget for 2023. Adm. Bradley gave an update regarding the City’s existing

debt. Ultimately, if we can get all \$826,000 cut, we would probably look at recommending that we continue to levy for TID #7 debt because we are still not addressing what is happening with capital. This is a decision that will have to be made by Council. Adm. Bradley confirmed this should not affect our current bond rating. After presenting this to the department heads, it was decided that each department would make recommendations for budget cuts within their department by May for the 2023 budget.

**Adjournment** – Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent and carried to adjourn at 8:13pm.  
Brenda Zeman, City Clerk