



City of Fort Atkinson  
City Clerk/Treasurer's Office  
101 N. Main Street  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM  
CITY HALL – SECOND FLOOR**

---

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Scherer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Cm. Hartwick, Cm. Johnson, Cm. Schultz and President Scherer. Also present: City Manager, City Clerk/Treasurer, City Attorney, City Engineer, Building Inspector, Park & Recreation Director and Fire Chief. Cm. Becker joined via zoom and in person at 7:40 pm.

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

*a) Public Hearing relating to State and Federal Aid for the improvements at the Fort Atkinson Municipal Airport (Selle, City Engineer/Public Works Director)*

Engineer Selle provided a presentation to the City Council, in person and zoom attendees regarding the Fort Atkinson Airport. The presentation included a maintenance list of crackfill, sealcoat and restripe the runway, approach and taxiways in 2023 and improvements to the beacon, airfield lighting, apron lighting and sign upgrades. Noted capital investments were new construction of a hangar/terminal building/FBO facilities, potential land acquisition, snow removal equipment and potential runway expansion. Finally, Selle included what an airport master plan could provide by identifying and describing future changes in usage that would justify additions/enhancements to airport facility. Selle also noted funding sources including Annual Federal Entitlement Block Grant, COVID funding, Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) and discretionary funding.

President Scherer opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm.

After three calls and no comments from those in person or via zoom, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:11 pm.

No action required.

*b) Public Hearing relating to contract modifications and the fare schedule changes for the Shared Ride Taxi Service in the City of Fort Atkinson. (Selle, City Engineer/Public Works Director)*

Engineer Selle presented a summary regarding the loss of agency fare revenue and a driver shortage. He also noted the Federal Subsidy that was increased in 2020 and 2021 to pay for the entire expense of operating the taxi service. In 2022, the subsidy increased to 74% from the typical 56% covering all expenses for the contract. In 2023, the federal subsidy will return to 56%. The contract for the shared ride program will experience a reduction of contract hours

from 15,900 to 9,000 hours, an increase in hourly rate for reduced contract service hours, an across the board fare increase on average 61% and reduced service hours will required the service schedule to change eliminating late night on Friday and Saturday evenings. A taxi will be available 6 am to 7 pm weekdays, 7 am to 7 pm Saturday and 7 am to 3 pm on Sunday.

President Scherer opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 pm.

Rob Martin, 409 Nadig Drive – he asked if the City of Jefferson contracts with the same taxi service as Fort Atkinson as he suggested cost sharing for the services. He also asked what the current rate of pay is for the drivers. Selle believes the rate of pay is around \$10 per hour. Martin feels ridership will decrease with the schedule cutting and increase in fee. He would like the Council to consider other options and find a better solution. Cm. Hartwick if he has any solutions or suggestions. Martin suggested working with the City of Jefferson. Cm. Hartwick stated that each municipality has a separate contract with the company.

Cm. Johnson asked if the wages could be adjusted. Selle stated we cannot request or set the wages for the taxi drivers. Selle stated that revenue has to be generated to operate this program. The 2023 budget does not include funds to operate the program.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:39 pm.

No action required.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rob Martin, 409 Nadig Drive commented on the increase for property taxes for the City of Fort Atkinson. He spoke on comments from online social media. He made reference to a ‘gold-plated’ ambulance and part-time employee wage increases. He also commented on those on fixed incomes that cannot afford various things. He feels people will be financially ruined due to tax increases.

Erin and Mitch Patterson, 1505 Stacy Lane addressed the Reserve “Class B” Intoxicating Liquor License available and advocated for their business, PaddyShack to be approved and issued the license at the Council’s January meeting. They stated that their entertainment venue will focus on downtown revitalization, provide employment opportunities and make a positive economic impact.

#### **5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the December 6, 2022 regular City Council meeting (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- b. Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the December 8, 2022 Transportation and Traffic Review Committee meeting (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- c. Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the December 13, 2022 Plan Commission meeting (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- d. Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the December 14, 2022 Sex Offender Residence Board meeting (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*

- e. *Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the December 14, 2022 License Committee meeting (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
  - f. *Review and possible action relating to building, plumbing, and electrical permit report for November 2022 (Draeger, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator)*
  - g. *Review and possible action relating to the City Clerk-issued License and Permit Report for November 2022 (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
  - h. *City Sewer, Water, and Stormwater Utility Financial Statements as of November 30, 2022 (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as listed, items 5.a. through 5.g. Motion carried.

## **6. PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**

## **7. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

- a. *Review and possible action relating to a Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid and the Agency Agreement and Federal Block Grant Owner Assurances (Selle, City Engineer/Public Works Director)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to adopt the resolution petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid and to approve the agency agreement and Federal Block Grant Owner Assurances. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. *Review and possible action relating to a Resolution Urging Legislature and Governor to Fix Broke System of Funding Critical Local Services (LeMire, City Manager)*

Manager LeMire noted as the City of Fort Atkinson is a member of the League with City's Elected Officials and staff members becoming more active and engaged with the League over the past several years, including attendance and speaking engagements at various events and conferences as well as supporting the League's legislative agenda. LeMire discussed the resolution in response to the property tax revenue that is limited by "levy limits" imposed by state law. This law limits the local government's ability to increase property tax revenue to the percentage of net new construction for the prior year. In 2022, the City's net new construction number was .34%, which equated to an allowable levy increase of \$22,067.58. Several of the City's contracted services, such as garbage and recycling collection, are tied to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and increased more than the City's allowable levy increase. LeMire continued noting that statutes allow for local governments to borrow funds outside of the levy limit and to seek voter approval for an increase in property taxes through the referendum process. The City of Fort Atkinson took both of these steps in 2022, which are reflected in the 2022 tax bills mailed out on December 15<sup>th</sup> (due in 2023). However, borrowing is not an appropriate way to fund annual operations; and the approved public safety referendum amount (\$769,335) will not ever increase.

President Scherer moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to adopt the resolution urging the Legislature and Governor to Fix the Broke System of Funding Critical Local Services and direct the City Manager to share the signed document with the League and the City's local Legislators. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES:**

*a. City Manager's Report (LeMire, City Manager)*

No action required.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

*a. Review and possible action to authorize the City Manager to execute the 2023 Joint Powers Agreement with Jefferson County for the County 911 Emergency System (LeMire, City Manager)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Hartwick to authorize the City Manager to execute the 2023 Joint Powers Agreement with Jefferson County for the County 911 Emergency System. Motion carried.

*b. Review and possible action to approve the contract modifications for the Shared Ride Taxi Service in the City of Fort Atkinson (Selle, City Engineer/Public Works Director)*

Engineer Selle reflected on the modifications noted during the Public Hearing.

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the noted changes to the shared ride taxi contract with Running Inc. for 2023 including the service schedule noted, hourly contract rate for service at \$36.73, and reduction in total contract hours to 9,000. Motion carried.

*c. Review and possible action to approve the Fare Schedule for the shared ride taxi service (Selle, City Engineer/Public Works Director)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to approve the increased Fare Schedule as noted for the Shared Ride Taxi Service in the City of Fort Atkinson. Motion carried.

*d. Review and possible action relating to a Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Hebron for 2023-2025 (LeMire, City Manager)*

Manager LeMire addressed agenda items #d - #h regarding ambulance service to the surrounding townships of Fort Atkinson. This service will begin 2023 through 2025. The rate per capita will be \$7.22 with a minimum annual increase of 2% and a maximum annual increase of 6%.

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Becker to approve the Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Hebron for 2023-2025. Motion carried.

*e. Review and possible action relating to a Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Jefferson for 2023-2025 (LeMire, City Manager)*

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to approve the Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Jefferson for 2023-2025. Motion carried.

*f. Review and possible action relating to a Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Koshkonong for 2023-2025 (LeMire, City Manager)*

Cm. Schultz moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Koshkonong for 2023-2025. Motion carried.

*g. Review and possible action relating to a Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Oakland for 2023-2025 (LeMire, City Manager)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to approve the Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Oakland for 2023-2025. Motion carried.

*h. Review and possible action relating to a Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Sumner for 2023-2025 (LeMire, City Manager)*

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to approve the Rural Ambulance Agreement between the City of Fort Atkinson and the Town of Sumner for 2023-2025. Motion carried.

## **11. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE**

## **12. CLAIMS, APPROPRIATIONS AND CONTRACT PAYMENTS:**

*a. Review and possible action relating to the Verified Claims presented by the Director of Finance and authorization of payment (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Hartwick to approve the list of Verified Claims and authorize payment. Motion carried.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Becker to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ebbert  
City Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director