



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, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

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**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Cm. Becker, Cm. Hartwick, Cm. Housley, Cm. Johnson and President Scherer. Also present: City Manager, City Attorney, City Engineer, City Clerk/Treasurer, Police Chief and Fire Chief.

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Engelman, 428 Sherman Avenue – spoke in support of the poetry wall which will be located on the north wall of Hometown Pharmacy.

Erin Ryan, 1210 Arndt Street - owner of Ryan Brothers. Ryan Bros has provided ambulance service to Fort Atkinson since 2001. Mr. Ryan spoke of their businesses' commitment to the community. He would like the Council to not discontinue the contract for ambulance services.

Cody Letson, paramedic with Ryan Brothers for 10 years. Spoke in support of the service provided by Ryan Brothers since 2001. He would like the Council to not discontinue the contract for ambulance services.

Todd Overdahl, 620 Washington Street, employee of Ryan Brothers for 17 years. Discussed his service and dedication to the community as an employee of Ryan Brothers.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

*a) Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the August 17, 2021 regular City Council meeting (Ebbert)*

*b) Review and possible action relating to the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Plan Commission meeting (Ebbert)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Housley to approve the Consent Agenda as listed, items 5.a. and 5.b. Motion carried.

**6. PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

*a) Presentation from Vandewalle and Associates relating to the Banker Road Neighborhood Concept Plan (LeMire)*

Manager LeMire introduced Brian Munson from Vandewalle to present the neighborhood concept plan. Mr. Munson reviewed the concept plan focusing on the design of the neighborhood, streets and utilities. The plan provides various styles of housing from single to multi family. The plan is a starting point for a developer to devise a proposal that could suit Fort Atkinson and the experienced growth.

*b) Review and possible action relating to the Banker Road Neighborhood Concept Plans (LeMire)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the Banker Road Neighborhood Concept Plan set as presented by Vandewalle and Associates, and to direct City Staff to prepare a Request for Proposals for distribution to qualified developers. Motion carried unanimously.

*c) Presentation relating to a proposal for additional staffing for Fire/EMS Services and Police Services (Rausch/Bump)*

Chief Rausch provided a presentation on the need for additional staffing for the Fire Department. He discussed the increase in call volume already in 2021 with the same staffing levels since 1974. FAFD consists of 4 full-time firefighters and 41 paid-on-call firefighters. Of those firefighters, 17 are EMTs, 5 are EMRs and 3 are paramedics. Requested staffing includes 6 full-time firefighter/paramedics and 6 full-time firefighter/EMTs.

Chief Bump discussed his Department staffing levels and the call volume they have experienced the past few years. Twelve dedicated patrol officers with a minimum of two actively patrolling at any time. The Department has a total of 20 sworn officers including the Chief, Captains and Lieutenants. The state average is based on a community of 8,000 with a typical roster of 16 officers. Since 2011 the agency has struggled to meet all of its obligation with the level of sworn officers. Requesting to add two full time officers to the Department. Future development could bring up to 800 residents therefore requiring additional officers.

**7. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:**

*a) Second reading of an Ordinance to amend Sections 2-52(c) and 15.10.13(2) and to create Section 2-3 of the City of Fort Atkinson Municipal Code relating to allowing electronic participation at meetings by members of the City Council, Boards, Commissions, and Committees (LeMire)*

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to direct the City Manager to prepare this Ordinance for a third and final reading at the meeting on September 21, 2021. Motion carried.

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

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

No action taken.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

*a) Review and possible action relating to a one-lot Certified Survey Map for the Badgerland After School Enrichment (BASE) project located at 520 Edward Street/509 Clarence Street (CSM-2021-05) (Selle)*

Engineer Selle reviewed the request for the future site of BASE. This was reviewed by the Plan Commission and Departments without concerns.

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the one-lot Certified Survey Map for the BASE project located at 520 Edward Street/509 Clarence Street. Motion carried unanimously

*b) Review and possible action relating to the Ryan Brothers Fort Atkinson, LLC, Contract for Provision of Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) (LeMire)*

Manager LeMire reviewed the existing contract held with Ryan Brothers. A provision of the contract is that a notice must be given between September 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> the year prior for termination. Providing notice of contract termination between this time period in 2021 will provide a contract end date of December 31, 2022.

Cm. Hartwick stated this request is larger than just a contract as this is leading to additional staffing for the Fire and Police Department. She asked if action on this item must be taken tonight or if it can be on another agenda. LeMire stated there is a small window for providing notice of contract termination.

Cm. Becker noted the budget restrictions that limit options and the Council is in a tough position.

President Scherer stated this is not a referendum on the service provided by Ryan Brothers. This is to serve our community and how it will affect the citizens.

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to direct the City Manager to provide official notice to prevent the automatic extension of the 911 ambulance service contract with Ryan Brothers Fort Atkinson, LLC, which will end the existing contract for services on December 31, 2022 at 11:59 PM CDT. Motion carried unanimously.

*c) Review and possible action relating to a Request for Proposals for Referendum Consulting and Communications Services for a potential Public Safety Referendum in April 2022 (LeMire)*

Manager LeMire prescribed the process to seek proposals for communication services.

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Becker to authorize the City Manager to distribute the Request for Proposals for Referendum Consulting and Communications Services to experienced communications consultants and through the League of Wisconsin Municipalities website. Motion carried unanimously.

## **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)*

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the list of verified claims and authorize payment. Motion carried unanimously.

**13. THE CITY COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER A MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO STATE STAT. §19.85(1)(C) TO CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, COMPENSATION, OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION DATA OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY HAS JURISDICTION OR EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY [6-MONTH REVIEW OF THE CITY MANAGER]**

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Hartwick to adjourn into closed session pursuant to State Stat. §19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the 6-month review of the City Manager. Motion carried unanimously.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Hartwick moved, seconded by Cm. Becker to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.