



Minutes

Committee #3

Transportation, Construction, Public Safety and Traffic

Committee #3 met Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 30 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Council/Committee Members present: Mike Hanke, Bill Hicks, Jane Lardahl, Amy Mason, George Adrian, Rob Kiefer, and Mayor Hoffman.

Others present: City Attorney Robert Ferg, Finance Manager/Treasurer Lynne Bauer, Fire Chief Tom Larson, Battalion Chief Mike Hepfler, Assistant City Engineer Matt Decur, Police Chief Wendy Stelter, Utility Office Manager Connie Freagon, and City Clerk Bridget Givens.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

**1. Discuss draft ordinance entitled: An Ordinance Amending the Restricted Burning Code Section – 9.31 of the Chippewa Falls Municipal Code. Possible recommendations to the Council.**

Attorney Ferg advised the Committee that Section 9.31 of the Municipal Code requires revision to allow further definition based upon a recent prosecution case wherein a resident was burning plastics in a burn barrel. The recommended revisions to the Code were derived from a pamphlet circulated by the Fire Department regarding outdoor burning in the City.

Councilor Hicks questioned if there is anything that addresses burning trash indoors in wood furnaces, as he has received complaints about this issue. Chief Larson and Attorney Ferg will review the Solid Fuel Heating Code Section to ensure it adequately addresses this concern.

**Motion by Lardahl/Hicks** to recommend the Council adopt the draft ordinance amending the Restricted Burning Code Section – 9.31 of the Chippewa Falls Municipal Code. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

**2. Discuss Fire Department Station Study and issues/alternatives related thereto. Possible recommendations to the Council.**

Battalion Chief Hepfler provided the Committee members with a handout summary. Discussion was had regarding possible location, response times, combining both stations into one super station, and the need to consider future expansion.

Hepfler shared that based upon a building size of roughly 21,000-26,000 sf, the expected costs would range from \$150 -\$200/sf. Committee members opined that the property acquired for the building should be suitable to allow for future expansion if needed, with a structure capable of handling the addition of a second floor. Additional concerns were expressed about response times and building location due to train traffic.

It was suggested these types of issues could be addressed in a study which would allow the Committee to make an informed decision. **Motion by Hicks** to recommend a Fire Department Station Study be conducted and to forward this item to Committee #1 for funding consideration. **Motion died for lack of a second.**

Battalion Chief Hepfler was directed to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Fire Department Station Study and bring it back to Committee #3 for review at their meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

No action taken.

**3. Discuss safety survey conducted by the Chippewa Falls Police Department in relation to potential safety measures in municipal buildings. Possible recommendations to the Council.**

Chief Stelter provided the Committee with details regarding the safety survey that was conducted in 2013 and again in 2014. She shared that the Library feels safer and they have implemented safety measures such as an emergency plan and cameras. Stelter further shared that many of the safety issues noted by staff could be rectified with very low-cost solutions, such as moving office furniture, purchasing shades, and installing better lighting.

Several different safety implementation measures were discussed including installing cameras, installing a key card system, and implementing emergency action plans. The Committee questioned if the Police Department could conduct a study to determine what additional security measures could be put in place. Following additional discussion, it was decided that a Police Officer will meet with each Department Head to aid in the creation of an emergency action plan for that department, beginning with the Finance and City Clerk's offices.

**Motion by Lardahl/Hicks** to recommend Council approve directing Finance Manager/Treasurer Bauer to proceed with finding a security firm to establish a safety evaluation for City Hall and bring the recommendations back to Committee #3 for consideration. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

**4. Adjournment**

**Motion by Hicks/Lardahl** to adjourn at 11:47 am. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:  
Mike Hanke, Chair

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RESTRICTED  
BURNING CODE SECTION – 9.31 OF THE  
CHIPPEWA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN,  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

1. That § 9.31 of the Chippewa Falls Municipal Code, regarding restricted burning, and which presently provides as follows:

**9.31 BURNING RESTRICTED.**

No person shall kindle or maintain any bonfire or fire or direct the same to be done in any street, alley or public place or upon any private lot except in a suitable outdoor fireplace or fire container used for outdoor cooking, unless a written permit to do so is obtained from the Fire Department.

be amended to provide as follows:

**9.31 BURNING RESTRICTIONS AND PERMITS.**

The following provisions apply to any person kindling or maintaining any fire, directly or indirectly, upon any street, ally, public place, or private premises within the City of Chippewa Falls.

- (1) The burning of the following types of materials in outdoor fires are not legal and are banned:
  - (A) Garbage and disposed of food products;
  - (B) Oils and oily substances;
  - (C) Asphalt and roofing materials;
  - (D) Plastics and treated lumber;
  - (E) Rubber products;
  - (F) Leaves and grass; and
  - (G) The burning of any material or substance in a burning barrel, any burning in a burning barrel being prohibited.
- (2) The following may be burned Monday through Friday only (except holidays) with a City of Chippewa Falls Fire Department burning permit:
  - (A) Brush piles;
  - (B) Wooden construction debris; and
  - (C) Bonfires by a school or bona fide civic organization.
  - (D) For the burning of brush piles and/or wooden construction debris and/or bonfires, free burning permits shall be obtained through the

Chippewa Falls Fire and Emergency Services Department. The City fire inspector or his designee(s) shall go to the requested location and check the area for safety concerns, proper clearances, weather conditions and proper materials to burn. A burning permit may be issued if the said conditions pass inspection.

- (3) The following types of outdoor fires are legal and are allowed seven days a week without a burning permit from the Chippewa Falls Fire and Emergency Services Department;
  - (A) Brick and mortar fireplaces;
  - (B) Commercially manufactured fireplaces;
  - (C) Commercially manufactured grills and fire containers which are primarily used for cooking, excluding burning barrels which are prohibited; and
  - (D) Small outdoor campfires in fire rings, portable metal mesh containers, and other fireproof containers, excluding burning barrels which are prohibited.
- (4) All outdoor fires in the City of Chippewa Falls must be attended to at all times until the fire is completely burned out or extinguished.
- (5) All types of allowed outdoor burning within the City of Chippewa Falls shall be done without excessive smoke or causing smoke complaints. If a smoke complaint is made police department and/or fire department officers shall respond to the area and investigate. If it is determined that smoke is indeed causing breathing or nuisance problems the outdoor fire may be ordered extinguished immediately. Permitted bonfires shall receive special consideration due to their nature.
- (6) During conditions of extremely dry weather, for the safety and protection of citizens and property, the Chippewa Falls Fire Chief is authorized to put into effect a burning ban within the City of Chippewa Falls. No Fire Department burning permits will be issued during these times. The burning ban shall remain in effect until ground and weather conditions improve at the discretion of the Fire Chief. During official burning bans, attended to small fire places, grills, and fire containers used for cooking, small outdoor campfires in fire rings, and portable metal mesh containers and other fireproof containers, all as allowed as set forth above, will still be allowed with discretion.
- (7) Anyone violating this ordinance section may be required to forfeit up to \$500.00 plus applicable court costs as required by law.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

ALDERPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
William Hicks, Council President

FIRST READING: \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory S. Hoffman, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bridget Givens, City Clerk