

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
Minutes**

October 31, 2005

City of Brillion Council Chambers

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Robert Mathiebe called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Mayor Robert Mathiebe, Alderpersons T.J. Bastian, Mel Edinger, Tammy Fischer, Larry Maciejewski, Betty Nies, Butch Reif, Gil Schneider, Gerald Sonnabend, and Gaylord Unbehaun. Also present were City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Lori Gosz, Police Chief Scott Kaphingst, Park & Rec Director/Aquatic Coordinator Chad Hoerth, Community Development Director/Zoning Administrator Heather Zander, Fire Chief Rich Janke, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Joy Buboltz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion – Edinger moved to approve the agenda as printed and circulated. Seconded by Maciejewski. Call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Town of Brillion residents stated they heard that the Town of Brillion was canceling service with Gold Cross Ambulance and would be contracting with Calumet Medical Center for ambulance service for the Town of Brillion.

Gosz stated she does not know if the Town of Brillion will be contracting with Calumet Medical Center for ambulance service, but does know that the Town of Brillion Chairman Maile informed her that they are not willing to pay the subsidy that the City is asking them to.

Town residents asked if this issue could go to a referendum. Gosz stated yes, but not through the City of Brillion.

Town of Brillion resident, Patsy Wendling, stated that she has asked the Town of Brillion to send a survey to Town residents regarding ambulance service. Wendling asked if the Town does not enter into a contract with Gold Cross, could Town residents request Gold Cross Ambulance for ambulance service. Police Chief Kaphingst stated that the Medical Control Authority must follow protocol, but will research the question. Fire Chief Janke stated he feels that the patient could request whichever ambulance service they would want, but if the patient is unconscious protocol would need to be followed.

Nies suggested that the Town residents contact their Supervisors immediately. Town of Brillion Board reported that they are not receiving ambulance service reports.

Town residents stated they are presently paying more for garbage service than they do for ambulance service.

Fischer asked if the Town residents would be able to petition for a referendum. Gosz stated yes.

Wendling stated the Town Board Supervisors are relying a lot on the First Responders.

Wendling asked why the Town of Woodville does not pay a subsidy for ambulance service. Gosz stated the revenue received from the Town of Woodville is very small. She also stated that the Town of Woodville Board guarantees payment of all calls that Gold Cross handles. She stated this issue will be discussed at a later date.

Gosz explained last year's ambulance service agreement with the Town of Brillion and explained this year's proposed ambulance service agreement. She stated presently the Town of Brillion is \$2,000 short of their guaranteed payment to the City.

Edinger stated the Town of Brillion Supervisors must remember that the subsidy the City is requesting from them is only for operating expenses and not for capital expenses.

REVISED 2006 AMBULANCE BUDGET – GOLD CROSS AMBULANCE:

Gosz presented the revised 2006 Ambulance Budget with Gold Cross Ambulance Service. She stated this budget is without the Town of Brillion being serviced.

Gosz stated the City will still be receiving 24/7 ambulance service. Maciejewski asked if some of the shifts would be filled by on-call staff. Gosz stated yes. Mayor Mathiebe stated the City is filling their promise by filling some shifts with on-call personnel.

Maciejewski stated the City needs to have a written agreement with Gold Cross Ambulance if they do respond to any calls in the Town of Brillion in 2006.

Police Chief Kaphingst stated the City needs to keep in consideration family members of the residents of the City of Brillion that travel on Hwy 10, which is located in the Town of Brillion, the response time they may have while waiting for ambulance service.

Motion – Unbehaun moved to adopt the 2006 proposed ambulance budget with Gold Cross Ambulance as presented and without the Town of Brillion's subsidy. Seconded by Maciejewski. Ballot vote taken. 9 votes cast. All in favor. Motion carried.

2006 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET:

Gosz stated Option 1 no longer applies since the Town of Brillion has chosen not to participate with the City for ambulance service.

Option 2 shows cuts to the Brillion Community Center Reserve Account and the Street Reserve Account, no ambulance subsidy from the Town of Brillion, and the closing of the Brillion Community Center on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Option 2 shows an increase for ambulance service, budgeting of a 7th Full Time Police Officer, increase in debt service, and contingency for engineering costs. With the proposed cuts and increases, Option 2 shows a City tax rate of \$9.02, which is below the City's levy limit. With Option 2, the City will no longer meet the expenditure restraint amount, which is approximately \$60,000 - \$70,000 of the City's shared revenue. If expenses were taken out of the operating budget and placed in reserves, the City would then meet the expenditure restraint amount.

Gosz explained Option 3. She stated with Option 3, there are cuts for the Town of Brillion ambulance subsidy, Brillion Community Center Reserve Account, and cuts to the Street Reserve Account. The only increase with this Option is the ambulance subsidy to Gold Cross. With this option, the City would meet the expenditure restraint amount. The City tax levy would be \$8.94.

It was suggested to use surplus funds to offset expenses.

Unbehaun stated the City should not be looking at cutting operating expenses and should not be using surplus funds to offset the budget.

Sonnabend stated he feels that Option 2 makes the most sense, since the City will be doing a lot more with an increase of 8 cents than with Option 3, while still maintaining a good tax rate.

Nies read a statement into record expressing her concerns with the proposed budget.

Discussion followed on Option 2 and 3 and the possibility of closing the Brillion Community Center on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Sonnabend stated he is not in favor of closing the Brillion Community Center those three (3) days. The City needs to generate revenue and wouldn't be able to generate revenue by closing it.

Hoerth distributed a usage sheet by hour for the Brillion Community Center and explained the findings to the City Council.

Nies asked how much revenue the City would be losing if the Community Center would close those days. Hoerth stated approximately \$10,000 in room rental fees and possibly revenue for swim passes.

Bastian stated if the Community Center would be closed the extra 156 days in a year the City would only be saving approximately \$25,000 - \$35,000.

Discussion followed.

Reif asked if the Calumet County Sheriff's Department has detectives for investigation services. Kaphingst stated the City could request Calumet County to do all of the investigations for the City of Brillion, but there would be a separate contract for that service. Reif stated it was his understanding that it is Calumet County's obligation to provide that service to the City, and if they would bill the City for that service then the City should bill the Town of Brillion for calls the City provide to them.

Schneider asked what services the City is receiving from Calumet County for the subsidy of \$138,000 that the City pays. Maciejewski stated the City is receiving services that the County must provide the City per Wisconsin State Statutes.

Officer JoAnn Mignon explained the investigation services between the City of Brillion and the Calumet County Sheriff's Department. She stated that Calumet County presently has three (3) investigators on staff. Presently the City works with Calumet County on crimes in the City. If the City chose to eliminate the investigator position within the Brillion Police Department office, Calumet County could provide the service but the quality of the service wouldn't be there due to time constraints and the backlog of cases presently there.

Kaphingst stated he has suggested to Calumet County the idea of developing a Task Force to review options for alternative ways of providing Police services but so far has heard no response from them.

Nies stated she is concerned that the City contributes approximately \$750,000 toward Police protection, which includes subsidy to the Calumet County Sheriff Department. Kaphingst stated it is important for the City to pursue consolidation of Police services. Unbehaun stated he recently attended a meeting that Dan Thompson from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities was also present at. It was the feeling from the speaker at that meeting that the double taxation issue will "die" in Committee due to it being so controversial. Unbehaun stated he feels that we will receive no additional services from Calumet County unless they hire additional staff. Therefore, he feels the addition of a 7th Full Time Police Officer for the City of Brillion is justified.

Unbehaun stated he does not like the idea of the Brillion Community Center closing three (3) days of the week, but does feel that something needs to be done.

Reif asked what the duties of the 7th Police Officer would be. Kaphingst stated that the 7th Police Officer would help stabilize the schedule and cut overtime.

Motion – Sonnabend moved to recommend Option 2 of the proposed budget and to set a Public Hearing for November 28, 2005 at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Unbehaun.

Bastian asked if the City has approached the Village of Reedsville to see if they are interested in being included with the City of Brillion and the Town of Brillion for ambulance service. Gosz stated the City is hoping to discuss ambulance service with them. Maciejewski stated the City has a product and the City needs to market that product.

Ballot vote taken. 9 votes cast. 6 yes votes cast by Unbehaun, Maciejewski, Fischer, Bastian, Edinger, and Sonnabend. 3 no votes cast by Schneider, Nies, and Reif. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion – Unbehaun moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Fischer. Call vote. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Joy L. Buboltz
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer