

A regular meeting of the Wakefield City Council was held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Wakefield Municipal Building with Mayor DeFavero presiding and leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL Present: Councilmembers Wiita, Mann, DeFavero, Tarro, and Granato
CALL Absent: None
Also Present: Richard Brackney, City Manager; and approximately 19 guests

CONSENT a) March 13, 2017 regular City Council meeting minutes; b)
AGENDA December 21, 2017 Gogebic County E911 Committee meeting minutes;
c) February 16, 2017 Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority meeting minutes. Granato moved, Mann seconded, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote.

BRIEF
PUBLIC None
COMMENT

APPROVAL Granato moved, Tarro seconded, CARRIED, that the Agenda be
OF THE amended to add New Business item e) Fire Hall Improvements; and f)
AGENDA Gogebic County Sheriff Department Update.

UNFIN- a) City Manager Evaluation- Granato moved, Wiita seconded,
FINISHED CARRIED, that the Council approve the request from the City
BUSINESS Manager to discuss his evaluation in closed session at the end of the meeting.

NEW a) March 2017 (partial) Invoices- Mann moved, Granato seconded,
BUSINESS that the Invoices be approved as presented and ordered paid. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote.

b) Eddy Park Campground Requests- Mann moved, Wiita seconded, that the City permit Niko Hewitt to sell bundled firewood and permit Antonio and Emily DeFavero to sell bagged ice at the Campground again this year and waive the \$3.00 per day vendor permit. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote, except DeFavero, who abstained.

c) Council Worksession- Tarro moved, Wiita seconded, CARRIED, that the Council schedule a Worksession for Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 3:30 P.M.

d) Utility Rates- After a lengthy discussion Granato moved, Wiita seconded, that the Council schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, April 10, 2017 to discuss increasing utility rates for the Water, Sewer, and Electric Utilities. Motion DEFEATED, on a three to two vote. Mann moved, Tarro seconded, that the Council increase the Water Operating Fixed Charge from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per month and the Sewer Operating Fixed Charge from \$.60 to \$2.60 per month with the next billing and schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, April 10, 2017 to discuss raising Electric Rates at a proposed \$.005 per kilowatt charge. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote.

e) Fire Hall Improvements- Granato moved, Mann seconded, that the Council authorize the Fire Chief to recommend repairs and obtain bids for the required work, which will be paid for out of the City's Fire Department Building Maintenance Fund. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote.

f) Gogebic County Sheriff's Department Update- Undersheriff Ross Solberg was present and briefly discussed the new reporting system and new format of reports. No action was necessary.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT Loraine Mussatti commented on Water/Sewer rates, meters, and the City opting out of Public Act 152. Roseann Finco commented on the Public Hearings for Ordinances. Mark Garske commented on the utility meters.

CLOSED SESSION Bargaining Unit Negotiations and City Manager Evaluation- Granato moved, Tarro seconded, that the Council go into closed session at 6:22 P.M., pursuant to MCL 15.268, Section 8(c), for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing; and Section 8 (a), to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing. A person requesting a closed hearing may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue shall be considered after the rescission only in open sessions. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote. Wiita moved, Mann seconded, that the Council return to open session at 9:01 P.M. Motion CARRIED, all voting yes by roll call vote. No action was taken on the Bargaining Unit Contract. Granato moved, Mann seconded, CARRIED, that based on the City Manager evaluations, the Council begin discussions to develop a new Contract with the City Manager.

ADJOURNMENT Tarro moved, Wiita seconded, CARRIED, that the meeting adjourn at 9:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Jacobson, City Clerk

Approved: _____

Joseph DeFavero, Mayor

Jennifer L. Jacobson, City Clerk