

**CITY OF AMERY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PROCEEDINGS
September 20th, 2023**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Amery met on Wednesday – September 20th, 2023, at City Hall. Council President, Eric Elkin called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Council President, Eric Elkin; Mayor, Rick Van Blaricom; and Alderpersons, Sharon Marks, Mike Manor, Roger Van Someren, and Sarah Flanum.

Absent: Alderperson, Thompson.

Staff Present: City Administrator, Patty Bjorklund, Clerk-Treasurer, Ben Jansen, Fire Chief, Chuck Frohn; and Library Director, Heather Wiarda; Public Works Director, Jeff Mahoney; and Officer in Charge, Kipp Harris.

Others Present: Members of the public

Department Head Reports – Reports were heard from City Administrator, Bjorklund; Clerk-Treasurer, Jansen Fire Chief, Frohn; Library Director, Wiarda; and Public Works Director, Mahoney.

Historical Society Building Discussion – The Amery Historical Society is seeking donations to purchase a new building and have a permanent home in town. They are seeking City support as well. They did not have any representatives at the meeting and the Committee requested that staff reach out to them and request that they come to the next committee meeting.

Housing Development Discussion – This item was requested by Alderperson, Manor due to the City being crucially short of housing. The City needs to explore some options to encourage the development of housing. Currently, the City requires developers to pay the full amount, it might be in the City’s best interest to work with developers on cost sharing. This will be an ongoing discussion for the next committee meeting.

2024 Budget Discussion – The conversation began with the possibility of a budget amendment at the end of the year to capture any potential police department salary savings. They are currently under budget by quite a bit. The Council agreed to think of ideas for the money. The state released its shared revenue figures. The City will be receiving an additional 100,000 dollars next year. Other needs discussed were the Senior Center Parking Lot, needs in the parks and rec. area, and the historical society request.

Public Comment – No public comment was heard at this time.

Motion by Manor, seconded by Van Blaricom; to go into Closed Session at 5:49 P.M. under Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) – Police Officer Position. Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Marks, Van Someren, Van Blaricom, Flanum, Elkin, Manor.

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Manor, seconded by Van Blaricom; to reconvene into Open Session at 6:31 P.M.

Motion by Fl anum; seconded by Van Someren; to adjourn at 6:32 P.M.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Jansen
Clerk-Treasurer
September 25th, 2023