

HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Allie
Lee Kummer (Phone)
Ted Jennejohn
Dave Luckow
Doug Borys
Rich Larsen

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Braun, Harbor Master
Dan Koski

OTHERS PRESENT

Connor Siemers

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Fred Radandt
Ald. John Brunner

Approval of the Minutes from the February 16th, 2021 Meeting

Motion made by T. Jennejohn and seconded by D. Luckow to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

New Business

Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association

P. Braun informed the Commission that the annual Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association meeting will be held in Washburn, Wis on August 5th and 6th. The annual meeting rotates annually between member port communities. T. Jennejohn stated that in the future McMullen and Pitz would be interested in becoming a sponsor for other meetings.

Discussion on Water Levels

P. Braun explained the information that was in the packet. The information was published by the Army Corps of Engineers and was a report discussing the water levels on the Great Lakes. The June 2021 Lake Michigan water level is approximately 20 inches lower than the level in June 2020 but it is 46 inches higher than the all-time low water level in 1964.

The Army Corps has been tracking water levels since 1918, the lakes have historically fluctuated. The Corps is forecasting the spring of 2021 to be near but not higher than the record high.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding Wake / No Wake in the Harbor Areas and Manitowoc River.

P. Braun explained that Chapter 4.070 of the Municipal Code regulates speed and wake in the harbor and river. The current no wake areas defined in Chapter 4 are: 1. West of

the east red nun buoy in the outer harbor and east of the 10th Street Bridge, 2. Anywhere in the marina, 3. Within 200 feet of the docking facilities at the Burger Boat Company and Boatworx properties, and 4. As signed along the Manitowoc River. The Commission discussed issues or concerns they have heard from the public. There is some confusion by boaters and enforcement entities not knowing the extents of the no wake zones. The Commission stated additional signage and outreach to the public and enforcement agencies would help the matter. The Commission felt the current no wake areas as defined, work well and no changes are needed at this time. The issue will be monitored to see if changes would be needed.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Harbor and River Improvements

P. Braun explained that there are no dollars in the City budget for general maintenance, safety improvements and other harbor and river enhancements. The Commission brain-stormed potential improvements which would attract more users to the water front. The Commission felt that there have been a lot of positives in the past 10 years which have attracted more users to the water front but more improvements are needed. The Commission discussed all the positive improvements that the City of Oshkosh has done to their water front and that their downtown is a destination and Manitowoc could do the same and be even better.

The Commission stated that more docking space, general maintenance, safety enhancements and improved signage are some general categories of improvements for the water front. The Commission discussed the amount of dollars they felt would be needed to continue to address the water front improvements.

P. Allie made a motion to recommend that the Mayor and Common Council place \$100,000 into the 2022 and subsequent year's budgets with any leftover funds at the end of the year being placed into an account maximizing out at \$250,000. T. Jennejohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be selected at a later time.

Adjournment

D. Luckow made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. R. Larsen seconded the Motion.

Paul Braun

Harbor Master