

# Common Council approves negotiations with HOV and apartment developer

By Tom Collins  
Reporter

There was something of a municipal "hat trick" at the July 19 Kaukauna Common Council meeting. That term is normally used in the world of hockey when a player scores three goals in a game.

The city's version was taking actions following all three of the evening's closed sessions. That is a rarity.

Following the first closed session, switching the agenda order and taking it early in the meeting, the common council voted unanimously to have its legal consultant present a report to the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District. That report, by consulting firm Raftella is intended to help the city and the HOV regarding the proposed interceptor construction costs to the city.

Later, council members adjourned to a second closed session that resulted in a motion to authorize Mayor Tony Penterman to enter into negotiations with the Dreamville development firm regarding the proposed apartments on property at 222 Lawe St.

That is another step toward bringing those apartments from concept to reality in the city.

The third closed session matter involved a discussion under the generic heading of "specific public business." That broad, generic label resulted in a motion to enter discussions with surrounding communities regarding a \$20 per capita charge for ambulance services. Among the communities in that outreach is the Town of Buchanan.

In the open session portion, approximately 27 minutes when segments were added together, Megan Brouch, a veteran of the Kaukauna Area School District, was introduced as the new administrative person replacing recently retired Karen Koch.

Brouch told council members she is eager to get to know everyone. She was named to both the board of canvassers and the Veteran Memorial Park Association to fill

Koch's terms on those committees.

In addition to handling the various reports and minutes normally submitted for the common council meetings, the council members reviewed the schedule for the 2022 budget process.

That work begins in August with various departmental work. Key dates begin during September with the annual capital improvement plan reviewed by the council and committees during the week of Sept. 13. The mayor's budget roundtable is the next week.

On Nov. 7, the proposed budget will be presented during a special committee of the whole meeting. Then on Nov. 15, a public hearing will be held regarding the proposed budget with potential approval that night.

The elected officials also heard from Human Resources Director Shannon Swaney regarding the city's new performance review process. The initial process will include skills and competencies along with developmental and other goals.

All employees and department heads have gone through presentations regarding the new system. The next steps include employee reviews during the fall months with the timeline calling for all reviews to be completed by December. A revised step compensation system is likely coming later resulting from a parallel compensation study.

All city departments, including the fire department, will be part of the new performance review system. The lone exception is the Kaukauna Police Department. The police follow their own specific performance review process through their union contract.

In other matters, Alderperson Pennie Thiele praised the Kaukauna Fire Department for their work and cooperation with many other area departments dealing with the recent massive Combined Locks warehouse fire. She said the efforts to deal with the complex fire were impressive and she said she was impressed by everyone involved with the situation.

The common council meeting followed a single city committee meeting held at 6:30 p.m.

The health and recreation committee was the sole board or committee meeting and was moved from its regular Monday night time slot.

Members approved permits for several efforts with multiple permits approved for some events.

Amplified music was approved for an Aug. 14 event at the Grignon Mansion. Live animals were approved for the historic site on Aug. 14 and on Aug. 20 and 21.

Amplified music and a temporary Class B license for the Kaukauna Athletic Club were a pair of approvals for the Sept. 17 block party on Wisconsin Avenue.

Other approvals were for amplified music at a Kaukauna Coffee and Tea-sponsored book signing July 30. The music will be at the nearby Family Sculpture Garden. Also approved by the committee was amplified music for the Aug. 6 "Bike to the Beat" event at the Grignon Mansion.