

# HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021  
4:00 P.M.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Allie  
Lee Kummer  
Fred Radandt  
Ted Jennejohn  
Dave Luckow  
Ald. Scott McMeans  
Doug Borys

## STAFF PRESENT

Paul Braun, Harbor Master  
Dan Koski

## OTHERS PRESENT

Connor Siemers  
Scott Retzak  
2 attendees by zoom

## MEMBERS EXCUSED

Rich Larsen  
Joe Holzinger

### **Approval of the Minutes from the February 20th, 2020 Meeting**

Motion made by L. Kummer and seconded by F. Radandt to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

### **New Business**

#### **Harbor Commission Membership and Appointments**

The Commission discussed that the terms for D. Luckow, T. Jennejohn, J. Holzinger and D. Borys will be expiring on June 1, 2021; after a brief discussion D. Luckow, T. Jennejohn and D. Borys stated that they would be willing to serve another 3 year term on the Commission. P. Braun will reach out to J. Holzinger who was not present at the meeting to see if he is still willing to serve another term.

#### **Discussion on Water Levels & Erosion Issues**

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. In a 6 year period the lake levels were at a record low in January of 2013 and 6 years later were a record high in May of 2019. The water fluctuated approximately 6 feet in that time period. The main contributing factors was record high precipitation and very low evaporation.

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.

#### **Annual Tonnage and Bridge Lift Reports.**

The annual tonnage and bridge lift report was reviewed by the Commission. The Commission discussed the report that the Department of Public Infrastructure compiles every year. The updated inbound tonnage for 2020 was 153,011 tons and the outbound tonnage was 257,664 tons with the total tonnage moved through the port of Manitowoc equaling 410,675 tons. The tonnage was the highest since 2009 which was 445,662. Broadwind shipped approximately 300 wind tower sections by water in 2020. The high water levels has increased the demand for revetment stone on areas of Great Lakes.

### **City of Manitowoc's 2020 Harbor Assistance Program's Annual Statement of Intentions**

P. Braun detailed the potential harbor projects that are listed in the 2021 Statement of Intentions. P. Braun said that there are 9 potential projects listed, some have been listed in previous years and that there is no penalty or commitment on the City's side in listing a project. The Statement of Intentions is a listing of any project that may occur in the next 3 years. To be eligible for Harbor Assistance Program funds the project must be listed in the Statement of Intentions.

The Commission discussed the Statement and recommended some changes such as increasing the importance of the sheet wall along the turning basin which is east of the City Centre Peninsula down below WPS, Tower Tavern and Harrigan Funeral Home. The Commission also wanted to include the sheet wall east of the Briess Tower and the dredging adjacent to the property Briess owns along the Manitowoc River.

The Commission didn't formally vote on the statement of intentions but were all in support of the proposed projects.

### **Mooring of Vessels / Wharfage Fees**

P. Braun explained that the area along the south bank of the Manitowoc River and east of the Briess Tower has sustained damage to the Sheet wall and cap. Approximately 2 years ago the City spent around \$24,000 to make repairs that were caused by vessels and barges docking along the sheet wall. The City is the riparian owner. Its assumed that barges are damaging the cap when the barge is rocking due to wave action.

P. Braun asked the Commission if they wanted to look into charging a mooring fee and if so, what should that fee be. P. Braun said that he reached out to other similar ports and that there were no others that charge a time-by-time fee. Sturgeon Bay has a mooring location but it is rented out by a single user. P. Braun explained that one suggestion would be to charge a \$200 or \$250 per time fee, have the bridgetenders track the users and then send out an annual invoice. After a discussion the Commission felt that the area was a needed safe harbor and that it would be an administrative struggle to monitor and invoice as needed. They also felt that it would be difficult to collect the payments. It also would be unfair to have the local user of the area make an annual payment while other non-local entities also use the area. The Commission also discussed the area adjacent to the City Hall and if that area should be promoted as an additional mooring location. No action was taken other than recommending making the proper improvements to the area with an enhanced fender system to prevent the damage from occurring.

### **S.S. Badger Carferry Update**

P. Braun stated that the Lake Michigan Carferry Service (LMC) was purchased by Cleveland, Ohio based Interlake Maritime Services, Inc. In addition to Interlake purchasing the Badger they also purchased the Pere Marquette. Interlake operates approximately 9 other vessels on the Great Lakes and east coast ferry services on the Atlantic Ocean. Interlake is not planning on making any major changes to the car ferry and that they have kept the City updated during the purchase and Harbor Assistance repair project that is currently taking place.

### **Next Meeting Date**

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

### **Adjournment**

F. Radandt made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45p.m. L. Kummer seconded the Motion.

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Paul Braun

Harbor Master