

APPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

Mayor Rowan called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Ambulance Chief Jody Bauer, Duane Peterson, Deputy Sandstrom, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Jenny Schutz, Shawny Kramer, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE AGENDA, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>, March financial report, Resolution No. 2023-10, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11, LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12, RESOLUTION DECLARING SLUM AND BLIGHTED AREA, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Schutz from Bud's Bar requested approval for outdoor music behind the bar on May 6th, weather permitting, from 8 p.m. to midnight.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE 1 DAY EVENT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF AMBULANCE BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Jody Bauer noted the tablet they keep in the ambulance for reporting runs is becoming unreliable. She presented a quote for a Panasonic Tough Tablet for \$4,111.59. This does not include a docking station which will be needed as well.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF THE TOUGH TABLET, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Ambulance Service 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reports were reviewed. Wirz questioned if the \$150 per call payment is used to pay out retirement benefits. Jody noted that goes into the relief association fund and is used for shirts, jackets, etc. If there is money left over towards the end of the year, they use it for wages to members. \$10,400 was transferred from the operations fund to the relief association fund for retirement. Once a member reaches 15 years, they get a payout from the retirement account. Jody

noted anyone on the service for more than 15 years receives a \$1,300 annual payment every February. The money in the relief fund is not invested. Jody noted they have to maintain enough in the fund to pay everyone out should the service disband, but no more than what is required for payouts.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE FIRST QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Jody noted the service has proposed to put the order of a new ambulance on hold for three months. Council approved to table and follow up on in three months.

Signatures cards at Citizens Bank MN for the ambulance accounts need to be updated. Shawny Kramer is taking over the treasurer position previously held by Jody Bauer. Mayor and council will also be on those accounts. On the relief accounts, Jeff Hilsgen will be removed, Shawny Kramer added and Jody Bauer would remain.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE CHANGES TO SIGNATURE CARDS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE WATKINS LIONS CLUB TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> EVENT AT VILLAGE HALL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-14, RESOLUTION APPROVING OFF-SITE GAMBLING REQUEST FOR JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> EVENT AT VILLAGE HALL, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Rowan presented an agreement from Bolton and Menk to work with the Lions Club on their proposed roof project at the skating rink facility. Being the site is city-owned, the council would need to approve the agreement. This project is estimated to exceed \$175,000 and Bolton and Menk would ensure the project follows all state statutes.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ACCEPT THE SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Pool – Council agreed due to the lateness of the season that no swimming lessons could be held this year. Discussion followed on holding an on-site lifeguard training course. Unterberger and Carlson will interview all lifeguard applicants. Tschumperlin and Wirz will interview all concession applicants.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE 2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission update – A solar setback waiver was requested for a solar project in Forest Prairie Township, to the south and east of city limits. If a proposed project is within 1,000 feet of city limits, Meeker County requires a setback waiver from the city. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the setback waiver.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE SOLAR SETBACK WAIVER, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

John Kramer is interested in building an apartment building on the empty lot he owns next to Gordies Bar. The attorney's opinion is that a building for pure residential use in the B-1 Central Business District would not be allowed per the ordinance. Kramer is now asking about a store front with apartments behind. The city attorney has been contacted again for his opinion. Kramer also asked about adding a second apartment on his existing building. The commission felt this would comply with the ordinance.

EDA update – The board is checking into a grant to extend water and sewer to the B-2 commercial area south of Glenshire Estates subdivision. Brodin Studios is in need of a larger parcel of land. The board is reaching out to surrounding property owners to gauge interest in selling land.

Prices for mini biffs at McCarthy Park and VFW Park were reviewed. Nelson Sanitation was slightly cheaper than Mini Biff.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO GET MINI BIFFS FROM NELSON SANITATION FOR CITY PARKS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE SPRING NEWSLETTER, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13, RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING MEEKER COUNTY ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM WATKINS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION AND WATKINS BASEBALL CLUB FOR 3.2 MALT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR SEASONS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE REPAIR OF PUBLIC WORKS GAS MONITOR FOR \$685.00, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The Glenshire Townhomes tenant association asked if the city would be able to assist in patching their private drive, either by selling cold patch to them, or the city doing the work and billing them. Public Works Director Geislinger suggested to them to repair the area by cutting out the bad spots and have it paved again. Council felt if they purchase material from the city, the city would need to make sure all costs to the city are recouped and that the city wouldn't be shorting itself of needed material. The general consensus was the association should handle this on their own.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan  
Mayor