

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014

Mayor Loch called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Dennis Loch, Jerry Hesse, Sue Unterberger, Melody Gertken, Jersey Piccerillo

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Deputy Josh Case, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, City Engineer Kent Louwagie, EV-W Voice, Tri-County News, Teresa Carlson, Ben Aho, Kelly Kelley, Duane Peterson, Kate Pelzer, Glenn Pauls, Pool Manager Nora Rohrbeck, Clerk Deb Kramer

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER.
MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY GERTKEN.
MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of July 10, 2014 regular meeting, August 4, 2014 special meeting, July financial report, Resolution #2014-21, Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution #2014-22, Resolution Approving Transfers, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-None

Deputy Case presented the July report. There were 37 calls for service. Case noted that Kraut N' Wurst went well. There have been a few gas drive offs, but once contacted they come back and pay.

Steve Geislinger noted the contractor for painting the pool has not been out yet to give a quote on sandblasting. Steve thought the public works department may be able to sandblast it. There were two quotes for sealing the monitoring wells at the wastewater pond site. MPCA is requiring these be sealed by December 28th. Council advised Steve to get more quotes. Council discussed sand points. The ordinance only addresses wells, which need a permit and approval from the council. Council didn't feel it would be feasible to do a sand point since the water table is so low here. Council agreed to allow a sand point and wells would need to be permitted and approved. Steve asked about painting the curb yellow on Second Street North. There is a small section on the south side of the street right next to the alley that needs to remain open for trucks to access the alley.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO PAINT TEN FEET OF THE CURB YELLOW, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve noted that A-1 Concrete Leveling should be out in a couple weeks for the sidewalks. Infratech will be out to clean the rest of the sewer line along Highway 55 east. Cost is \$265 per hour and they estimated about 10 hours of work to finish. Steve is monitoring the manholes now.

Glenn Pauls requested approval to block off Central Avenue in front of Bud's Bar and Ponies and Pals Daycare for a bike run Saturday, August 16th.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO BLOCK OFF THE STREET IN FRONT OF BUD'S BAR AND PONIES AND PALS DAYCARE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Glenn noted the Lions Club is in need of finding a new place to store their pull tabs. The club is considering building a shed by the skating rink. The labor would be donated and the concrete would be discounted. They are looking at approximately \$10,000 to cover the costs. The club is asking for the city to front the money and the club would donate back. The shed would also store the equipment for the skating rink. They would like to get the concrete poured this year yet. Cost would be approximately \$1,200.00 for that.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO SPEND \$1,200.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE CONCRETE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

This will be considered a city project and invoices will be billed to the city. All setbacks will need to be met for the building.

Kate Pelzer noted her water was shut off for non-payment but stated she never received a notice. Pelzer's paid the \$150 reconnect fee and didn't feel it was right that they had to pay that when they never got a notice. She asked for the \$150 to be applied to her water bill. Council discussed and agreed to stand by its policy not to refund or credit.

Kent Louwagie presented 4 quotes for the Luella Street Sanitary Sewer Extension. At a special meeting held August 4th, council advised Kent to contact the contractors to see if they would adjust their quotes if the completion date was extended to the end of the 2014 construction season. The following quotes were resubmitted: Kuechle Underground-\$65,578.20, Land Pride Construction-\$73,021.00, Crow River Construction-\$77,937.00, Geislinger and Sons-\$83,710.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM KUECHLE UNDERGROUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,578.20 FOR THE LUELLA STREET SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION, SECONDED BY HESSE. MOTION CARRIED.

Kent presented a pay request from Mid-MN Hot Mix for the Western Avenue North improvement. This is for work completed through August 8th. Pay request #1 was for \$72,155.99.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPROVE PAY REQUEST #1 FOR \$72,155.99, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

An assessment hearing will need to be held within the next two months.

Nora Rohrbeck reported that swim lessons have wrapped up for the year. There were 311 students this year, which were 54 more than last year. Evening sessions were offered for the first time and went very well. Her goal was for a 50% increase in concessions and she has almost reached that. Mayor Loch donated a free swim day as well as the Watkins Chamber, Farmers State Bank and Hilltop Health Care Center. She plans to do a calendar for fundraising next year and has been working with the Lions Club on this. A water pool carnival will be held August 16th to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the pool. She

reported there has been overtime again this year due to trouble hiring enough guards. A “welcome” sign for the pool will also be installed courtesy of a donation from the Watkins Lioness.

EDA update- The board is applying to USDA Rural Development for a matching grant to build an incubator building on the land owned by the EDA on Highway 55.

It was noted that the maximum amount for a Downtown Rehabilitation loan should be increased from the \$5,000 it was originally set at.

There is still one vacancy on the EDA board.

The Ambulance Service 2nd quarter reports were not formally approved at the July meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE 2ND QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Property complaints at mobile home park-Kramer noted she spoke with the owner of the park and he was going to work on getting two vacant homes out by the end of August. Council advised Kramer to contact the owner to let him know he must have two out by the end of August and continue to move out the abandoned ones or council will proceed with enforcement of the ordinance.

Council was presented with a law enforcement contract with Meeker County for 2015-2016. The contract is for 2,080 hours per year. Rates would be \$42.50 per hour in 2015 and \$43.50 per hour in 2016.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPROVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The city and county are working with Northland Securities on the abatement request from Hilltop Health Care Center. More information should be available at the September meeting.

Kramer noted that the wellhead protection plan audit was satisfactorily passed by MN Department of Health. In conjunction with the audit process, a free nitrate water testing clinic will be held in Eden Valley on August 26th from 4 to 7 p.m.

Kramer presented Resolution #2014-23, Resolution Adopting Code of Conduct for Each Member of the City Council. Gertken questioned about not being able to use cell phones or other electronic devices during a meeting. She noted that she has to sometimes check e-mails during meetings for her job. If no electronic devices are allowed she may need to leave at 8 p.m. if the meeting is not finished. Council agreed that if she needed to leave that would be acceptable. Gertken asked how the resolution would be enforced. Hesse felt the resolution was a waste of time.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO THAT NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES BE ALLOWED DURING MEETINGS AND THE MAYOR SHALL KEEP ORDER OF THE MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted that applications are coming up for the Small Cities Development Program grants.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO NOT TO APPLY FOR THE SCDP GRANT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed a bill sent to the city from Ron's Excavating for water main repair on Luella Street. The main broke when Hilltop did a pressure test for its addition. Council agreed this needed to be turned over to the contractor.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO TURN THE BILL OVER TO HILLTOP HEALTH CARE CENTER, AND ANY OTHER BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPAIR, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

MnWARN membership was discussed. This would be a mutual aid agreement to provide a program where water, wastewater, and storm water utilities sustaining physical damage from natural or man-made disasters in the state of MN can obtain emergency assistance, in the form of personnel, equipment, and materials and other associated services necessary to protect the health and welfare of the utilities' customers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPLY FOR MNWARN MEMBERSHIP, SECONDED BY HESSE. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer reported that the AWAIR and Right-to-Know policies have been updated.

Responsibility of creek maintenance was discussed. Kramer talked to Clearwater River Watershed District and they recommended the DNR be consulted before any work is done. Council agreed that the property owner was responsible for maintaining the creek and should contact the DNR before any work is done.

Council reviewed a Reimbursement Resolution. This would give the city legal authority to issue tax exempt GO bonds at a future date for the Luella Street sanitary sewer extension project. This resolution does not obligate the city to anything, but provides the council with some flexibility should they decide to issue bonds rather than using cash.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-24, RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

Council comments-none

Staff comments-Ambulance Chief Aho noted a new ambulance has been ordered and will arrive in 220 days. They will have enough funds to pay for it at delivery. Aho asked about replacement of the overhead doors at City Hall. Kramer noted she has not done anything further with that due to the other expenses that have come up this year.

Performance reviews for staff will be at the September 11th meeting. The pool manager will be reviewed in December.

Council agreed that only one copy of the ambulance bills was needed, but a summary of the bills should still be available to each of the council and mayor.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING AMBULANCE, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Dennis C. Loch, Mayor