

APPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

Mayor Rowan called the special meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at City Hall.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone, Clerk Deb Kramer

The purpose of the meeting was to work on the proposed 2025 levy and budget.

Council advised to increase the amount for legal fees for the General Fund. Improving the alley from 3<sup>rd</sup> St N to 4<sup>th</sup> St N, east of Central Avenue, was discussed. Council advised to increase the proposed engineering fees for streets/highways.

There was discussion on ways to increase revenue in the Pool Maintenance Fund.

The assessments for the 2007 street/utility improvement project will be ending in 2027. Council will need to decide if it will increase what is being levied to cover the debt or take from the Water Enterprise Fund and Sewer Enterprise Fund to cover the debt.

The existing PFA loan for the wastewater pond expansion project will end in August 2025. The new debt for the lift station rehab started this year. PFA arranged the payment schedule to keep the payments on the new debt lower until the old loan is paid off. This debt is paid out of the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Increasing the sewer rate 1% in 2025 will be considered.

Transferring funds from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund for future improvements was discussed. Kramer noted the amounts estimated to over levy for the 2 active abatements. Pay 2025 will be the last over levy needed for Hilltop as that will end in February, 2026.

Wages for office staff may also need to be reviewed for 2025.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY WIRZ, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan  
Mayor