

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

Others: Jenny Schutz, Kent Louwagie, Deputy Sandstrom, Paul Abdo, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone, Clerk Deb Kramer.

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of July 11th regular meeting, July 24th public hearing, July financial report, Resolution No. 2024-23, Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution No. 2024-24, Resolution Approving Transfer of Funds and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

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

Jenny Schutz with Bud's Bar, requested to block some parking for a motorcycle run coming through town September 8th. They are expecting 75 to 100 bikes. Jenny noted Kue Contractors would allow them to use their parking area behind Village Hall and also in front of the hardware store's storage shed on First Street. St. Anthony Parish is holding its festival that day as well. Jenny requested to block off at 8 a.m. due to the festival being the same day. The bike run will be here for about an hour, from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m., stopping at Bud's Bar and Legion Club. Council agreed to block off parking areas from Bud's Bar and Gordies Bar to the south end of the block, and on the Legion Club side from the corner of First and Central up to Kue's fence on Central.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE BLOCKING OFF PARKING TEMPORARILY FOR BIKE RUN, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works will provide parking cones.

City engineer Kent Louwagie reported the generator for the lift station rehab project is scheduled to arrive August 15th. Once connected, test runs will be performed. The contractor is scheduled to pave late September. The old generator will be relocated to the water reservoir site. Kent presented pay application #5 from Geislinger and Sons in the amount of \$50,226.50 for work completed.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE PAYMENT APPLICATION #5 FOR \$50,226.50, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Sandstrom noted that Kraut N' Wurst went well.

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

550 Western Avenue North water intrusion issue – Geislinger noted water was setting on the north side of the street and by the tree after the last rain. Kent noted as-builts were requested, but the drawings submitted are not what was asked for. The plans show the water should all drain west of 550 Western Ave N. Kent asked how the council wanted to proceed, noting it may or may not be a simple fix. Kent suggested shooting the area with a laser as the drainage is not going to Western Avenue. Installing a swale would probably take a private contractor. Council agreed to meet at the site with 2 council persons, public works, city engineer, developer and homeowner. City staff will gather dates and get a date and time set.

Small box discount store moratorium public hearing follow up – Paul Abdo of Abdo Markethouse would like to develop a Dollar General store in Watkins. He asked if there was anything specific he could answer. Carlson noted there were a lot of comments from the hearing. She also noted there is a petition being circulated. Mayor Rowan noted there is a group gathering information planning to attend a future meeting. Council agreed they would like the city attorney to attend a meeting to discuss the moratorium and options for the city to consider. Paul asked if there was anything they could offer. Carlson noted the council wants to do what's best for the community. Paul noted they want it to be a positive experience for everyone and asked if there was anything from their side they could do to make it beneficial for everyone. Paul noted they are excited to come to Watkins. He noted his email was in the newspaper article and he did get a few emails after the hearing. Paul noted they would like to move forward on the project and if there's anything they can do to facilitate it to let him know.

Planning Commission update – Resident at 131 Meeker Avenue S would like to install a driveway south of the house. The board didn't see any issues with it. The Flood Plain Overlay District in the Zoning Ordinance needs to be amended to allow for accessory structures with a conditional use permit. Citizens Bank MN may be selling the home it owns next to the bank and asked if there were any concerns about the drive-thru abutting the home. The board didn't see any issues. The hardware store may be installing new letters/canopy on the front. The board agreed a permit would not be necessary.

Council called for a special meeting to work on the budget August 28th at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The Watkins Lions Club would like to hold an adult kickball tourney at the softball park September 28th and requested an on-sale temporary liquor license.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE ON-SALE TEMPORARY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE LION'S KICKBALL EVENT SEPTEMBER 28TH, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

An updated Personnel Policy draft was presented for council review. This will be followed up on at the September or October meeting.

Pool manager Erin Geislinger and Assistant Manager Brooklyn Glenz reported there have been several private parties this year that have cut into season pass holders open swim time. Council discussed putting a cap on how many parties can be booked each month. Erin noted lessons had to be canceled and the parent requested 2 free passes for the inconvenience. Council approved to issue. Erin reported there were about 50 swimmers on Kraut N' Wurst Day so it was worthwhile to be open. There is a private party August 23rd from 4 to 7 p.m. so the pool will close to the public for the season at 4 p.m. Council noted the managers did a great job this season.

The Watkins Chamber asked if the city wanted to become a chamber member and sponsor a discount on the Savers Card project they are working on. Council decided to offer a \$1 discount on open swim. There would be 3 uses per offer.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO JOIN THE CHAMBER AND SPONSOR A \$1 DISCOUNT ON OPEN SWIM, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Clerk Jacobsen-Krone requested to attend a free land use training in Staples November 14th and an Athenian Dialogue (virtual) put on by the League of MN Cities and IIMC October 4th. The fee is \$50.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE BOTH REQUESTS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Bills- Brenda Carlson submitted a bill for approval for reimbursement for grand marshal corsages for Kraut N' Wurst for \$35.00.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING CARLSON BILL, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The next regular meeting is Thursday, September 12th at 7 p.m.

Mayor Rowan closed the meeting for staff evaluations at 8 p.m.

Mayor Rowan reopened the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Summary of staff evaluations was all staff was doing a good job. Council recommended staff start documenting daily job tasks.

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

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan
Mayor