

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were: minutes of the October 12, 2017 regular meeting, October financial report, Resolution #2017-35, Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution #2017-36, Resolution Approving Transfer and Close Out Fund, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-Nothing

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

Duane Peterson requested permission for the Ambulance Service to purchase a LUCAS chest compression system that does CPR compressions automatically. The Ambulance Service received one through a grant (a \$15,000 value) and now they would like to purchase one to keep in the rescue vehicle. They would be able to purchase one at 30% off until the first of the year. This would be paid for from the city's Ambulance Fund. Duane noted although it's for the rescue vehicle, it would be paid for from the Ambulance Fund and not the Rescue Fund.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE LUCAS CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEM, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Snow removal and enforcement of the city's parking ordinance were discussed. With the first measurable snow fall a couple weeks ago, there were no tickets issued to parking violators. Deputy Defries asked if the council wanted to ticket or give a warning first. A few years ago, council approved to issue a citation on the first offense instead of giving a warning. Council advised Deputy Defries to ticket on first offense. There are signs posted in the Central Business District of parking times during the winter and the regulations for all parking were also included in the fall newsletter that was mailed out.

Robert Diffley contacted City Hall after the October meeting about options to repair his property. Kramer informed him that, per state statute, the city could do the repairs and assess the cost to his

property taxes for up to five years at 8% interest. Attorney fees and other costs could be assessed as well. He asked to be put on the November agenda to discuss with the council. Mr. Diffley was not present at the meeting and now has the property for sale on Craigslist. Carlson noted she was not in favor of the city repairing. Council discussed giving another month to see if it sells. Unterberger noted the city still needs to decide what to do if it doesn't sell. Wirz questioned if there was a process of dealing with houses like these and if the city attorney would have something like this. Council agreed Mr. Diffley is not responding and the city needs to know what its options are. Kramer will contact the city attorney and update at the next meeting.

Increasing water and sewer rates was discussed. Council discussed doing small increases to build up funds for future replacement of equipment. After discussion, council agreed to increase water rates and sewer rates 1% in 2018. This would increase the water rate from \$7.55 per thousand gallons to \$7.63 and sewer rate from \$11.83 per thousand to \$11.95. The base rates would remain the same.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO INCREASE WATER AND SEWER RATES ONE PERCENT EACH EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

A few months ago, Representative Dean Urdahl attended a meeting and asked if the city was considering any projects, as he chairs the bonding committee and the next Legislative session will be a bonding session. Kramer asked if council would be interested in pursuing possible funding for a new water tower through the state bonding bill. Discussion was held on the low water pressure in some areas of the city, especially Glenshire Estates. A new, taller water tower would alleviate this problem. The engineer's estimate for a new tower is \$750,000. Wirz asked if there was a chance the city might get partial funding and would need to come up with the balance. What would the city do in that case?

MOTION BY CARLSON TO PROCEED WITH INVESTIGATION OF A NEW TOWER AND FUNDING THROUGH THE STATE BONDING BILL PROCESS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Warning siren- Council advised to have quotes available at the January meeting so a siren can be ordered and installed before severe weather season.

There is a property in town that has installed sheet steel siding and roofing material on an accessory building, which is not allowed per the Zoning Ordinance. This type of material is only allowed if the building is less than 120 square feet. The land use permit specifically stated the siding must be lap siding to match the house and have a shingled roof. After this was brought to the city's attention and before the project was complete, the city sent the owner a letter notifying him that type of siding he was using was not acceptable and needed to be removed and replaced with residential siding material and shingles. The letter allowed 30 days to bring into compliance. A second letter was sent after the deadline, advising the owner that if he didn't comply, the city would have no choice but to turn the matter over to the County Attorney for prosecution of the violation. There has been no response from the owner, and the building is still out of compliance. Council agreed it had to stand by its ordinance.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO TURN THE MATTER OVER TO THE MEEKER COUNTY ATTORNEY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed a model Right-of-Way ordinance from the League of MN Cities. The city doesn't have anything in place to regulate its rights-of-way at this time. The city attorney is reviewing the draft as

well. Discussion followed and Kramer was advised to discuss with the attorney and the League for more information.

Council reviewed a draft of the 2018 fee schedule. There were some additions to consider such as fees for peddlers & transient merchants to go along with the city's ordinance regulating them. Kramer suggested the fees for activities at the pool be included in the schedule. Kramer asked council to review the schedule and proposed fees so it can be acted on at the December meeting.

Council approved for City Hall to be closed November 24th.

Kramer noted the baseball association is no longer pursuing a storm shelter/hitting facility due to the financial commitment required.

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

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger asked about lighting for the new welcome signs. Solar lighting had been discussed at one time, but the signs are too big for this. Council advised to get a price.

Wirz noted that the Fire Department would like the Public Works Department to take care of the flag at the Fire Hall along with the rest of the flags on city property.

Next meeting is December 14th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor