

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Jason Laumer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Dave & Karri Hokanson, Randy Berg, Chris Rowan, Jody Bauer, Steve Geislinger, Deb Kramer

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

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of the November 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and November 13<sup>th</sup> special meeting, November financial report, Resolution #2020-28, Resolution Accepting Donations and Resolution #2020-29, Resolution Approving Transfer of Funds.

Public Forum – None

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE BILLS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Dave and Karri Hokanson were present to discuss the use of an alley. The planning commission recommended to the council to vacate both alleys in the area. Council member Tschumperlin stated she was abstaining from all discussion and voting on this matter. Dave asked why the planning commission was recommending to vacate the alley. Laumer noted the city would be responsible to maintain it and there could be encroachment issues. Dave noted that would be the same for every alley in town. Council noted not everyone is asking to use alleys. Laumer noted the city is not willing to improve it at the city's cost. Wirz noted the city cannot have private citizens building up roads on their own. Laumer and Wirz both noted they felt the city shouldn't have to maintain it. Laumer noted there are financial considerations and property owners to be concerned about. Dave stated this would forcibly land lock his property. Council disagreed and felt he had access to the property. Dave disagreed. Dave noted that if the city forcibly land locks this property the city would need to compensate him for it. Wirz noted he would like to see what the attorneys come up with. Both Laumer and Wirz thought the attorneys should discuss this and the council can make decisions from there. Dave asked how the city would propose to split the alley. Wirz noted the city would need to have its attorney look at it, as he understood it there are two different plats involved. Dave asked if the city is aware that all information is public now. Dave also noted that his transaction to sell some land to a party whose shed is over his line is now on hold. Wirz noted if the city doesn't vacate it, it doesn't mean it will be a usable alley. Mayor Eder noted this is just the first step. It would go to another meeting and then a public hearing would be set.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO START THE PROCESS TO VACATE, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.  
TSCHUMPERLIN ABSTAINED.

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

Council reviewed the 2021 budget.

Mayor Eder opened the floor for public comment of the 2021 levy and budget at 7:30 p.m. Being there was no public comment, Mayor Eder closed the floor.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2020-30, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL LEVY, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2020-30  
CITY OF WATKINS  
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2021

Be it resolved by the city council of the City of Watkins, Meeker County, Minnesota, that the following sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2021, upon the taxable property in the City of Watkins, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$315,231.00
Economic Development Tax Abatement-Hilltop Health Care Center-	\$15,196.00
Economic Development Authority Fund	\$10,000.00
\$4,725,000 G.O. Refunding Bonds, Series 2013A	\$175,200.00

The city clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the county auditor of Meeker County, Minnesota.

This foregoing resolution was adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020 on a motion by Councilor Wirz, seconded by Councilor Laumer. Motion carried.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Frank Eder, Mayor

Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2020-31, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET, SECONDED UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Ordinance #2020-2, Ordinance Adopting 2021 Fee Schedule, was reviewed. Kramer noted the change in Public Works rates was updated from the last meeting and under the Zoning fees, a note was added that any additional costs to the city for engineering, legal, etc. would be paid by the permit applicant.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2020-2, ORDINANCE ADOPTING 2021 FEE SCHEDULE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

BergankDV proposed fees for audit services are \$15,540, \$16,000 and \$16,480 for years ending 2020, 2021, and 2022 respectively.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM BERGANKDV FOR AUDIT SERVICES, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the 2021 meeting schedule. Veterans Day will fall on the second Thursday of November. Council agreed to hold the regular meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE CHANGE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Upcoming council vacancy was discussed.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADVERTISE FOR APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPT UP TO JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AND APPOINT AT THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING IN JANUARY, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

One application was received from Sarah Kern to serve on the EDA board.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPOINT SARAH KERN TO THE EDA BOARD, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

St. Anthony Parish would like to do a drive-by Christmas pageant December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The route would go on several streets in the city. Council approved.

Kramer noted the city is compliance with the Local Government Pay Equity Act.

A special work session meeting will be held December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to work on the ordinance updates.

With the uncertainty of the COVID -19 Pandemic, Meeker County is preparing for local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings to see how cities want to hold them. Council agreed to make a decision at the January meeting on whether it will be in person, or by teleconference.

Public Works Director Geislinger had nothing to report.

Council thanked Laumer and Eder for their service and welcomed new Mayor Chris Rowan.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO PAY BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Next regular meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup> and a special meeting December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Christopher Rowan  
Mayor