

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Josh Case, Tri-County News, EV-W Voice, Duane Peterson, Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Kelly Kelley, Ben Aho, Facto Umana, Mike Boulton, Clerk Deb Kramer

Mayor Loch added a tax abatement and development agreement between the city and Hilltop Health Care Center and a letter from Chuck Unterberger to the agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS, SECONDED BY HESSE. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Public Forum-Nothing

Deputy Case reported there were 33 calls for service in November.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ACCEPT THE SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Geislinger reported that he didn't have a price yet on fluid for the loader tires. He was told not to use a used product as it could rust the rims. Steve noted they would like to get a pusher for the loader. They are looking for a used one for around \$2,000 or less. Steve is also getting some quotes for a wing for the plow truck. One quote was \$21,000 installed. He will be getting another quote after they come out and take a look at the truck. They would only need to go through once on each side if the truck had a wing. They would be able to get done plowing quicker and be able to get closer to the sides where there are mailboxes. Steve reported the pumps were down at the lift station on December 6th. Affordable Pumping was called to haul and Quality Flow Systems came out to get it up and running again. The alarms didn't go off due to a malfunction which has now been fixed.

Old business--new building at skating rink. Piccerillo questioned the funding of the new building at the skating rink. Council noted they confirmed this at the November meeting that the city would front the money for the new building. Piccerillo asked if the cost of the fill/concrete for the building was being paid from the General Fund or Park and Rec. Piccerillo thought it was being charged to the General Fund and the Lions would donate funds for the structure. After checking the minutes from the August 14, 2014 meeting council agreed that cost would be paid for out of the General Fund.

There was no public comment for the truth in taxation.

Chuck Unterberger submitted a letter of resignation from the EDA board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed a draft of the tax abatement and development agreement with Hilltop Health Care Center.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE THE TAX ABATEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed a resolution to amend the 2014 budget.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-41, RESOLUTION AMENDING 2014 BUDGET, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2014-41
CITY OF WATKINS
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2014 BUDGET

WHEREAS, The City of Watkins allows for the amendment of the City's annual budget by the City Council.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATKINS, MINNESOTA:
The 2014 Budget shall be amended as follows:

General Fund Account	2014 Budget	Amendments		Amended 2014 Budget
		Revenue	Expenditures	
Other Revenue	\$14,724	\$37,788		\$52,512
Special Assessments	0	\$14,745		\$14,745
Streets & Highways-				
Capital Outlay	\$65,000		\$20,000	\$85,000
Other Charges	\$7,866		\$20,000	\$27,866
Culture & Recreation-				
Capital Outlay	\$25,000		\$60,000	\$85,000
Sewer Enterprise Fund	2014 Budget	Revenue	Amendments Expenditures	Amended 2014 Budget
Other Pay	\$8,500		\$53,000	\$61,500
Professional Services	\$1,468		\$15,000	\$16,468
Supplies	\$6,834		\$8,000	\$14,834

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Watkins this 11th day of December, 2014.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Dennis C. Loch, Mayor

Debra Kramer, Clerk

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-42, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL LEVY, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2014-42
CITY OF WATKINS
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2015

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 2015, upon the taxable property in the City of Watkins, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$342,621.00
\$1,035,000 G.O. Improvement Bonds, Series 2007B	\$45,000.00
\$4,771,000 G.O. Improvement Bonds of 2009	\$165,200.00

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 11th day of December 2014 on a motion by Councilor Piccerillo, seconded by Councilor Gertken. Motion carried.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Dennis C. Loch, Mayor

Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-43, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HESSE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-44, RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER AND CLOSE OUT G.O. IMPROVEMENT BOND 2001 FUND, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the fee schedule for 2015. Changes made were: pool fill for city residents decreased from \$50 to \$25 plus cost of current water, water accessibility charge and sewer accessibility charge were each increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500, removed copy charge of .25, grass mowing and brush hauling increased from \$65/hour to \$100/hour with a one hour minimum.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT THE 2015 FEE SCHEDULE WITH THE ABOVE CHANGES, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed a Policy for Prevention of Frozen Water and Sewer Service Lines. Council agreed the utility bills will be adjusted according to City Council direction. However, the resident must notify City Hall as soon as possible that they are running the recommended stream of water.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT POLICY FOR PREVENTION OF FROZEN WATER AND SEWER SERVICE LINES, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

POLICY FOR PREVENTION OF FROZEN WATER AND SEWER SERVICE LINES

This policy is written to clarify responsibilities and procedures prior to and in the event of a frozen water and/or sanitary sewer service line.

Responsibilities:

1. The City of Watkins is responsible for the water mains up to the curb stop.
2. The City of Watkins is responsible for the sewer main line.
3. The Homeowner is responsible for the water lines from the curb stop to the house.
4. The Homeowner is responsible for the sewer lines from the main to the house.
5. The Homeowner is responsible for hiring and paying a licensed plumber or other firm capable of safely thawing their service lines. Homeowners will assume all risks and liabilities of using a pipe thawing service. The Homeowner shall contact City Hall when the line is open.

Procedures:

In the event of an extended period of cold weather and when the frost has reached a depth that may impact the water service lines, **the City of Watkins will issue a notice to begin running** the recommended stream of water as instructed below.

Turn a faucet on with a steady stream of running water about the width of a standard pencil-size to prevent freezing. It is estimated that a stream of water as suggested would fill a 1 quart jar in approximately 1 minute.

Monitor water temperature by keeping a thermometer under a running faucet for about 5 minutes and then reading the temperature. If the temp drops to 40 degrees or below, the frost may be getting close to the service line, which may be a warning sign to start a steady stream of water.

While these procedures are not guaranteed to prevent a frozen water line, they will substantially reduce the risk.

Adjustments:

The Utility Bills will be adjusted according to City Council direction. However, the resident MUST notify City Hall as soon as possible that they are running the recommended stream of water.

Council reviewed the pool report for the season. The fund is at a deficit of \$38,443.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ACCEPT THE POOL REPORT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The Lions Club has cancelled the broomball event for December 20 & 21 so a liquor license is no longer needed.

Council reviewed the winter newsletter.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE THE NEWSLETTER, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Facto Umana asked about his valuation and taxes. It was noted that was on the agenda earlier. Umana noted his assessed value increased. Council advised him to attend the Board of Review meeting in April.

Meeker County Hazard Mitigation Plan was discussed. Another meeting is scheduled for December 23rd and cities are to have a list of items they want included in the plan to the county by then. Council agreed to include the following in the plan for the city: storm shelter, warning siren, erosion control for County Ditch 20 and securing water supply.

Kramer noted that the city dropped its group health insurance a few years ago and gave a monthly stipend in lieu of. This is no longer allowable under the Affordable Care Act. Increasing wages was discussed. Council had concerns of doing this and then at some point being mandated to provide health insurance as well. Council tabled until the January meeting and advised Kramer to contact the city attorney.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO TABLE THE MONTHLY STIPEND UNTIL THE JANUARY MEETING, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Loch and Councilor Piccerillo were presented with plaques for their service to the city. Loch thanked the council and noted he enjoyed his time in public service.

Mayor Loch asked if the city had received any payments from the gravel lease this year. Kramer noted it had not. Council advised to send Landwehr a letter again. Loch asked about the ballpark sign that was discussed earlier this year. The council asked that a sign stating something to the effect of "Watkins City Park-Home of the Clippers" be put up. Gertken noted the baseball association is looking at signs and it will be put up before the state tournament.

Further discussion was held on the gravel lease. Hesse noted they are getting pretty close to the irrigator with removing gravel. He noted it should be shut down. There is not enough acreage set aside as the pivot cannot go all the way around. This will be followed up on.

PICCERILLO MADE A MOTION THAT WITHIN 6 MONTHS IF THE LESSEE IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SET ACREAGE NEEDED TO RUN THE PIVOT THAT THE CITY SHOULD TERMINATE THE LEASE AGREEMENT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted that Kramer Electric gave a quote to replace the lights on Central Avenue with LED lights. The cost would be \$1,222 per light plus labor. Council asked if there would be any grants out there for this. No action was taken.

A FEMA grant has been submitted for SCBA equipment for the Fire Department and the department will also be applying for USDA funding for a new pumper truck.

Kramer asked if council would be opposed to City Hall being closed December 26th. Council approved and advised to post the hours.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting went into closed session at 8:21 p.m. for a performance evaluation for Pool Manager Nora Rohrbeck.

The meeting went back into open session at 8:48 p.m. Summary of closed session was that Nora was doing an excellent job as manager and to keep up the good work.

Piccerillo stated he was resigning from all city boards effective tonight.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ACCEPT PICCERILLO'S RESIGNATION, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk