

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

Others present were Fred Struzyk, Lynn Imdieke, Ralph Linn, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger and Clerk Deb Kramer.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the November 15th regular meeting, November financial report, Resolution #2018-32, Resolution Accepting Donations, 2019 council meeting schedule, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

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

Tschumperlin asked about the winter parking restrictions in the Central Business district. She was told cars were parked in front of Wally's Café that were not ticketed by the deputy after he stopped to look at them. Geislinger noted that he thought they did get tickets but the deputy got called away and was unable to ticket any more.

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

Council reviewed a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 72, Parking Regulations, of the city code. This would allow campers, etc. to park on a street for no more than 48 hours, but would prohibit anyone from using the vehicle as living quarters.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2018-4, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 72 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF WATKINS PERTAINING TO PARKING REGULATIONS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2018-5, ORDINANCE ADOPTING 2019 FEE SCHEDULE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-35, RESOLUTION DECLARING DESIGNATED POLL LOCATION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeker Development Corporation would like to establish a housing task force. They are asking for one elected official from each city to serve on the board. Mayor Eder will contact them to find out when meetings will be held. Council tabled until next month.

St. Anthony Parish requested a temporary on-sale liquor license for a dinner and entertainment event to be held at the parish center February 9th. February 10th is an alternate date in case of bad weather so both dates need to be on the license.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 9 & 10TH, 2019, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted the city received some property complaints this fall. Letters were sent to the parties but there was little response. These parties will be contacted again in the spring. Carlson noted she hopes council will continue to work on the property at 261 Central Avenue South which has been an on-going problem.

Carlson noted it has been very nice working with everyone on the council and thanked city staff for their work. Mayor Eder thanked Carlson for all her work while serving as a council member.

Council acknowledged the donations from the VFW Post, Legion Club and Lions Club for the new extrication equipment for the Fire Department.

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

Mayor Eder opened the public comment period for the truth in taxation discussion at 7:30 p.m.

Fred Struzyk and Lynn Imdieke, co-owners of Hilltop Health Care Center and Gardenview Assisted Living, were present. Fred noted they purchased Hilltop in 2012 and at that time decided to operate as a for-profit business. They added on an assisted living facility in 2015 and another addition in 2018. Fred noted they are paying taxes because it's the right thing to do and did so with the understanding the city would be fair on how tax dollars are spent. Fred noted that it came to his attention the city is supplementing the baseball park. He was made aware the city pays for the water there and the insurance on the buildings. Fred had some tax returns from the baseball club, which are public record. He felt the baseball club should have to pay a fair share to help lower the tax bill. Fred understands parks are important but felt it should be fair. Wirz noted the planning commission has had some discussion on water use, etc. and also the need to conserve water. Fred asked if he could rent the buildings. Council was unsure on that. Fred noted it needs to be fair. Mayor Eder noted everything they make goes back into the park. Fred had some income figures from tax returns for 2014, 2015, and 2016. He didn't think these included their charitable gambling. Wirz noted the first step was to track costs accurately. Eder noted he would talk to the baseball club about the financial reports. Carlson felt there should be flat fee or something for water usage.

Ralph Linn stated his proposed taxes for 2019 were going to increase 46%. This does not include the new school bond levy. Eder noted the values increase as home sale prices increase. Homes in Spaulding's Addition and Spaulding's 2nd Addition were all increased 25% for payable 2019 due to the sales in those additions. Ralph's value increased significantly for 2019, causing his proposed tax to increase significantly.

Mayor Eder closed the public comment period.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-33, RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL LEVY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2018-33
CITY OF WATKINS
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2019

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 2019, upon the taxable property in the City of Watkins, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$315,231.00
Economic Development Tax Abatement-Mies Outland	\$25,000.00
Economic Development Tax Abatement-Hilltop Health Care Center-	\$16,590.00
Economic Development Authority Fund	\$20,000.00
\$4,725,000 G.O. Refunding Bonds, Series 2013A	\$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 13th day of December 2018 on a motion by Councilor Carlson, seconded by Councilor Wirz. Motion carried.

ATTEST: (SEAL)
Frank Eder, Mayor
Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-34, RESOLUTION APPROVING FINAL BUDGET, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 10th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor