

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

Mayor Eder called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at City Hall.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of November 10, 2016 regular meeting, November financial report, Resolution #2016-37, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off, 2017 council meeting schedule, and 2016 pool financial report.

Public Forum- Nothing

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE BILLS FOR PAYMENT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeker County Economic Development Authority Executive Director David Krueger presented the Watkins Housing Study and reviewed it with the Council. David thanked the Council for its contribution to the study. The report concluded that Watkins housing needs a “shot in the arm”. The natural market is very slow or non-existent. Mayor Eder interrupted David at 7:15 p.m. for the truth in taxation meeting.

At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Eder opened the floor for discussion on the 2017 proposed levy and budget. There was no public in attendance for the truth in taxation discussion.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO CLOSE THE FLOOR, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

David continued with the Housing Study. The city may need to use incentives to “boost” the market. Some incentives include Tax Increment Financing or abatement, developer partnership, and EDA lot loan program. There are also Federal and State programs for homeownership to consider. The City should enhance the commuter to stay and monitor the Senior side of housing and Services housing. There is a possible need for more Senior housing of all kinds and the city should enhance the “aging in place” concept with Hilltop Care Center. There is also a need for more entry level single family housing. David noted the city needs to create a strategy for development. David could attend an EDA Board meeting as well to go over this information.

Robert Diffley, 261 Central Avenue South, was present to discuss the condition of his home. The city had contacted Mr. Diffley about some exterior issues earlier and then there was severe damage to it from the July 11th tornado. Mr. Diffley stated he has been in the home about four years now. He has been working on updating the plumbing and electrical. He realizes it is somewhat of an eyesore now. It is a work in progress and he is proceeding as he can financially. There is a temporary roof on since the

tornado. Mayor Eder noted there are programs through MN Housing Finance Agency that offer low interest loans. He would like to take the stucco off and side the house. Council advised Mr. Diffley it has been getting complaints on the condition of the home. Mr. Diffley noted he will be replacing windows on the front within the next month. The roof will be done by March 31st and then he wants to reside it. Council noted they were glad he attended the meeting to let them know what's going on. Mr. Diffley offered to attend future meetings to keep the council updated. Council didn't feel that was necessary as long as Mr. Diffley honors his word and keeps moving forward as he said he would.

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

The City submitted a Letter of Intent to the Transportation Alternatives Solicitation Program for funding for a trail from Glenshire Estates to the rest of the City. The full application is due January 13, 2017. Mayor Eder and city staff attended a meeting with Mid-MN Development Commission, city engineer and Meeker County on the application process. Eder has contacted a property owner near Glenshire about getting an easement for a trail and the owner is not willing to do so. Eder is also trying to contact another property owner to see if he would be interested in granting an easement for a trail. The city is unsure whether a trail along the highway would be possible. Virgil Lovejoy and Mindy Heinen, Glenshire Estates residents, noted the development is growing with young families. It would be nice to have something connecting the development with the rest of the city. Council discussed the application and without having a definite location for the trail felt it wasn't ready to submit an application for the 2021 funding period. Virgil noted that some other communities have done this and did fundraising for it. Eder noted there was no lot designated in Phase 1 of the development for a playground. There is a playground at the Elementary School along with the City pool and summer rec programs offered at the school for children but there is no safe route for them to get there. Council stated there are very much in favor of seeing a trail connecting Glenshire Estates to the City but it's having difficulty getting a location for it. Eder noted the School District would help any way it can with this.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO TABLE THE TRAIL APPLICATION UNTIL COUNCIL HAS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO APPLY FOR 2022 FUNDING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2016-38, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL LEVY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2016-38
CITY OF WATKINS
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2017

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 2017, upon the taxable property in the City of Watkins, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$310,846.00
Economic Development Tax Abatement-Mies Outland	\$25,000.00
Economic Development Tax Abatement-Hilltop Health Care Center	\$21,101.00
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.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2016-39, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO INCREASE THE PER THOUSAND GALLON CHARGE FROM \$4.50 TO \$5.00 TO THE JOINT WATER TREATMENT FUND, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

This increase will be effective January 1, 2017.

Council discussed Village Hall rental fees for non-profit and service organizations. After discussion it was agreed that all non-profit, community and service organizations would not be charged a rental fee. Private parties will be charged the specified fee.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ALLOW NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TO USE THE VILLAGE HALL AT NO CHARGE, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2016-6, ORDINANCE ADOPTING 2017 FEE SCHEDULE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

230 Central Avenue South-Council felt it was looking better but still needs to be worked on. The owner did get a permit for a shed but it is not up yet. This will be monitored.

201 Church Street-There is garbage in the driveway. A letter was hand delivered to the owner on December 6th and he told the Deputy he was in the process of cleaning it up but didn't say when it would be done. Council advised to get guidance from the city attorney on what action the city can take once the compliance date is up.

MOTION BY WIRZ AFTER THE 30 DAY NOTICE HAS EXPIRED TO CONTACT THE CITY ATTORNEY TO MOVE FORWARD, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed the intersection at School Avenue and Highway 55. This is a dangerous intersection. The city engineer has asked if the city would like him to contact MnDOT to see if it could be improved when they overlay Highway 55 in 2018. Council also recommended a STOP sign be placed where the YIELD sign is on the west end of Veterans Drive. Staff will check into this.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO HAVE THE CITY ENGINEER CHECK WITH MNDOT IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE WITH INTERSECTION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger reported that the software for the handheld unit used for reading meters will no longer be supported after December 31st. The unit is five years old. A new system is \$5,450.00. Council agreed to use it as long as possible and purchase a new system when needed. If it fails in between council meetings, council preapproved purchase of replacement. Tschumperlin left the meeting at this time.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW HANDHELD SYSTEM IF THE OTHER HANDHELD FAILS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Some people have requested the street name signs damaged by the tornado. The city can sell them for salvage price.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO SELL DAMAGED STREET SIGNS FOR \$10 EACH, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger reported some of the Christmas wreath decorations on the street lights were blown down in strong winds and damaged. The city had some extra on hand and is now down to 2 extra. They are \$600 each now and after January 1st the supplier will have a 40% off sale on. Council agreed to wait to order until needed.

Next regular meeting is January 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor