

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Jody Bauer, Deputy Sandstrom, Clerk Deb Kramer

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the November 10th public hearing and regular meeting, November financial report, Resolution No. 2021-34, Resolution Accepting Donations, 2022 Council meeting schedule and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

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

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

Mobile Home Park – Kramer noted she spoke with the owner since the last meeting. He noted they were working on getting bids for crushing homes and hoped to have to the city by the December meeting. He also stated they were working to get the home brought in last year set permanently. Kramer advised the owner that council was not very happy with this home and that an inspection may be required to be sure it meets code. At the time, he asked the city to bear with them for a while longer. The MN Dept. of Health (MDH) did an inspection of the park since the November meeting and they sent a letter to the owner with a list of orders. MDH will follow up in 30 days, depending on the weather. A letter was also sent from the city advising of the Blight Ordinance violation. The owner was allowed 10 days from the date of receipt of the letter to comply with the city's notice. The deadline was December 3rd and there hasn't been any improvement. The city attorney's recommendation was to follow up if MDH orders are not complied with. The park does use the Village Hall as a storm shelter and this agreement hasn't been renewed for some time, so the city could possibly require some prerequisites that the park comply with MDH orders in renewing this agreement. No action was taken at this time.

Ordinance updates – Kramer noted the changes have been compiled into a list. Regulating the length of time dumpsters can set on a residential property was discussed. Wirz will contact a couple companies and see what their rental policies are. The ordinances will be discussed at the January meeting and hearing scheduled.

Truth in Taxation – The proposed levy and budget were reviewed. The total proposed levy for 2022 is \$514,073. The General Fund levy remained the same as 2021 at \$315,231. The total levy for pay 2021 was \$515,627. The proposed General Fund budget is about \$287,123 less than 2021, mainly due to the housing grant received. There were no changes made to the proposed budget. Mayor Rowan opened the floor for public comment. Being there was no public comment, Mayor Rowan closed the floor.

Assistant City Clerk position – Council reviewed the job description. Kramer suggested the position be changed to Deputy City Clerk. Hours will be approximately 10 to 15 hours per week.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO CHANGE THE JOB TITLE TO DEPUTY CITY CLERK, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Wages were discussed. Council agreed to advertise at \$15 per hour.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO SET WAGE AT \$15 PER HOUR, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

2022 Fee Schedule – Council agreed to wait until proposed fees are set for the ordinance updates before adopting. Item was tabled until January meeting.

Pub crawl complaint – City Hall received a written complaint on the excessive noise from the DJ. Council discussed and felt it was similar to the Kraut N’ Wurst event. They felt it’s just one time a year and felt it brought business into town. The complaint was duly noted and no action was taken.

Dog barking complaint – Kramer noted the city received a written complaint about a dog barking. The owners of the dog were sent a letter and they also stopped in City Hall. The complainant has emailed the city a couple times since then with the same complaint. Council agreed to advise the complainant to contact Meeker County at the non-emergency number.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-35, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL LEVY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-35
CITY OF WATKINS
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL TAX LEVY, COLLECTIBLE IN 2022

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 2022, 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-	\$13,642.00
Economic Development Authority Fund	\$10,000.00
\$4,050,000 G.O. Refunding Bonds, Series 2019A	\$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 9th day of December 2021 on a motion by Councilor Carlson, seconded by Councilor Tschumperlin. Motion carried.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

Chris Rowan, Mayor

Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-36, RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL BUDGET, SECIONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARSLON TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM ST. ANTHONY PARISH FOR A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR AN EVENT ON FEBRUARY 12TH, 2021, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF IRRIGATION AGREEMENT WITH JOHN RAUSCH, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Umbrella at pool – This did not have good reviews so the manager will be looking at other options.

League attorney Paul Merwin would like to meet with the council on an active litigation matter. Council reviewed dates.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO HOLD A CLOSED MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 AT 3:30 P.M. FOR ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SECONDED BY CARSLON. MOTION CARRIED.

IT Solutions has installed the server and other equipment. It was noted that both office computers are quite slow and they recommended upgrading both with SSD drives. Cost would be \$300 total for both.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO UPGRADE BOTH COMPUTERS AT A COST OF \$300, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Larry and MaryAnn Flaschenriem have purchased a lot that abuts their property and they would like to combine the parcels. Kramer did check with the city attorney's office on this and after review, it was their opinion, based on the plat survey of record that a new survey would not functionally be necessary in this case and felt the city could approve the combination. It was recommended that the city review its Subdivision Ordinance as a whole.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE PARCEL COMBINATION WITHOUT A SURVEY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director noted there were some issues with vehicles on the street during the last snow fall. He has talked with the deputy and procedure will be to call the county's non-emergency number and if they can get a car here to issue citations, they will. The city did receive one complaint due to the neighbor leaving cars on the street which resulted in a pile of snow at their driveway. Geislinger noted that the AED signs are up for the units on Western Avenue North and at the Fire Hall.

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

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 13th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan, Mayor