

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Bonnie Holthaus, Jody Bauer, Kyle Ten Napel

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were January 9th, 2020 regular meeting minutes, January financial report, Resolution #2020-7, Resolution Accepting Donations and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

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

Kyle Ten Napel with Mid-MN Development Commission was present to discuss a trail/sidewalk plan for the city. A Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan has been completed. One of the objectives of the SRTS plan was to install needed pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure near the Watkins Elementary. This included a multipurpose trail between Glenshire Estates development and the Watkins Elementary along with sidewalks near the school. Mayor Eder noted a sidewalk to Hilltop Health Care Center should also be included in the trail/sidewalk plan. Kyle noted a new map would be done showing existing and proposed sidewalks. Kyle will attend the March 4th planning commission meeting to develop an implementation plan.

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

EDA update – Joe Loff inquired about building a townhome at Glenshire Estates. He will attend the board's March meeting to discuss further. Henry Lange is interested in purchasing Wally's Café and he may be applying for some financing assistance through the EDA's Revolving Loan program. The closing on the parcel of land on Highway 55 east was postponed.

Diffley property – The work on the soffits was not completed in January as the owner said it would be. Council agreed to move forward with authorizing a petition.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH AUTHORIZING PETITION, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Council agreed not to hold a clean-up day this year as prior years have had a very low turnout.

At the annual fire protection meeting held February 12th, the fire district approved an increase to the Relief Association's per man year retirement from \$1,400 to \$1,550.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE THE RELIEF ASSOCIATION PER MAN INCREASE FROM \$1,400.00 TO \$1,550.00, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

At the annual fire protection meeting, there was discussion on changing the method for computing each district's share of expenses. Council discussed but no action was taken.

Fiber optic internet options were discussed. Both Arvig and Meeker Cooperative are offering fiber optic. Council agreed there wasn't a need for the TV at City Hall to be hooked up to Wi-Fi. After discussion, council decided to stay with Arvig and go with the fiber optic at City Hall, Fire Hall and pool.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO STAY WITH ARVIG AND GO WITH THE FIBER OPTIC, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A letter of understanding between the city, EDA and Meeker Leased Housing LLC was reviewed regarding payment of hook-up fees at the proposed apartment building site. The hook-up fee would be \$5,583. Any additional work needed to hook-up to services would be part of the project costs.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The annual Board of Appeal and Equalization will be Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 to 7 p.m. Council meeting will follow.

Meeker County is holding a geologic atlas workshop February 20th from 2-5 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to Meeker County Planning & Zoning.

Kramer noted city staff will be working the election on March 3rd so City Hall will be closed that day.

Kramer noted the 2020 Census will not be mailing Census questionnaires to PO boxes and asked if the city wanted to reach out to those residents to notify them how to participate. After discussion, council agreed to send a mailing to all PO Box addresses in the city to notify of the upcoming Census and how to participate.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO SEND A NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS WITH A PO BOX, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

The Public Works Department requested approval to purchase a utility locator for locating water and sewer lines. The cost is \$4,346 plus s/h.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE UTILITY LOCATOR, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, March 12th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder
Mayor