

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda: January 14, 2016 minutes, January financial report, Resolution #2016-11, resolution accepting donations and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-nothing

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

Ben Aho has resigned from the ambulance service effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. Bonnie Holthaus will be acting chief for the service until elections in March.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO ACCEPT BEN AHO'S RESIGNATION, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF BONNIE HOLTHAUS AS ACTING CHIEF, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Mike Lease was present on behalf of Lease Companies to request an on and off-sale liquor license and Sunday on-sale license. Lease Companies will be purchasing the Red Goat Bar and Grill in March. They are in the process of getting all the paperwork in order. Upon council approval, a background check would need to be done by Meeker County and then the applications submitted to the state.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR LEASE COMPANIES, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Mike Lease also reported on the 2015 state baseball tournament hosted by Watkins and Cold Spring. Watkins' profit was \$48,632. Mike noted everything is paid for as far as the ballpark. They are planning to submit a bid to host again in 2021 or 2022. Mike noted the turnout of the whole community was great.

Council reviewed area city water and sewer connection fees. Currently Watkins charges \$2,500 each for water and sewer hookup (\$5,000 total). Eden Valley charges \$1,000 for each (\$2,000 total). Kimball charges \$2,250 for water and \$2,500 for sewer (\$4,750 total). Cold Spring charges \$5,100 for sewer and \$1,700 for water (\$7,100 total) and Litchfield is \$1,200 each plus a \$50 inspection fee for each (\$2,500 total). After discussion, council agreed to decrease the fees from \$2,500 each to \$1,750 each (\$3,500 total). This fee will be for the connection permit and fee. When a connection requires installation of a service line from the main to the property line, the applicant for a permit shall pay to the city an amount not less than the cost of making the necessary connections, taps, and installation of pipe and appurtenances to provide service to the property and necessary street repairs.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO CHARGE \$1,750.00 EACH FOR WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #2016-12 was reviewed. This would close out the Police Fund retroactive to 12-31-15 and have that department's revenue and expense be part of the General Fund.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2016-12, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO INCREASE THE WATKINS FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION PER MAN YEAR RETIREMENT TO \$1,300.00, SECONDED BY CARLSON. WIRZ ABSTAINED.

Property on 1<sup>st</sup> Street was discussed. The owner responded to the city's request for an inspection of the property and is not willing to grant permission for an inspection. Carlson questioned if the council agreed on this. Wirz felt this property warrants further action; it's vacant and has animals going in and out. Wirz didn't feel anything had been done. Mayor Eder noted it appeared a new front door was installed but the steps don't look safe. Wirz felt the city should proceed to get in and make a determination after that. There is concern for the safety and health of the neighbors. Kramer noted the attorney is checking on the search warrant process at this time.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO TABLE UNTIL THE CITY GETS DIRECTION BACK FROM LEGAL COUNSEL, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A letter was sent to a property owner on Central Avenue South regarding the disrepair of the exterior. The party has not picked up the certified letter yet. If returned undeliverable it will be hand delivered by Meeker County.

EDA update- the purchase of 10 acres of land on Highway 55 by Glenshire Estates closed in January. The board needs to determine how to advertise before it can go on the website.

Watkins House LLC has requested a \$50,000 revolving loan from the EDA. The EDA has recommended approval to the council to issue the loan. Watkins House is currently working with Meeker County to get clients.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE REVOLVING LOAN REQUEST FOR WATKINS HOUSE LLC FOR \$50,000.00, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Parent Link Notification System was discussed. Kramer noted any type of message the city wants to put out can be done. The city would need to get contact information from residents who wish to participate in it. Denise DeJuliannie would contract time with the city to get it set up. Carlson didn't see any downside to participate. Council advised Kramer to get a written contract from Denise with costs, etc. for review at the next meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO TABLE THE SUBJECT UNTIL THE MARCH MEETING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Two applications were received for the pool manager position. The ad was in the EV-W Voice (which includes the Paynesville Press and Shopper) and Tri-County News for 2 weeks. Council advised to run the ad again for 2 weeks in the EV-W Voice, Tri-County News, Cold Spring Record, Litchfield Independent Review and Annandale Advocate.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO RE-RUN THE POOL MANAGER AD FOR TWO WEEKS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The city laptop and cell phone have not been returned yet by the former manager. Council advised to send a letter allowing 30 days to return or it would be considered stolen property.

Council approved for a moving trailer to be parked on Meeker Avenue South in March for a period of no longer than 10 days.

Council reviewed information on a Community Solar Garden and asked for a representative to attend an upcoming council meeting to get further information.

The annual Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Kramer requested to attend the annual Clerks Conference in St. Cloud March 15 thru 18<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday's election training workshop is \$45 if registering for the Wednesday-Friday conference (\$240). If registration is for the Tuesday workshop only the fee is \$55.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO APPROVE KRAMER'S REQUEST TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The League of MN Cities will be holding its annual Loss Control Workshops throughout the state. The closest ones will be at Willmar and St. Cloud. The fee is \$20 per person. Kramer noted that she and the Public Works Department have attended in the past and requested approval to attend again. It is also open to elected officials.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE REQUEST FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND CLERK TO ATTEND THE LOSS CONTROL WORKSHOP, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

The City of Hutchinson, along with the Coalition of Greater MN Cities, will be hosting a Legislative Forum focusing on LGA and other city issues on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger noted they looked at the pool bathhouse roof a little closer and felt it could wait a year to replace as it is not leaking. He is also hoping to get by another year with the heater for the kiddie pool. Geislinger spoke to a Forest Prairie Township Board Supervisor about 667<sup>th</sup> Avenue repair. He didn't know if they had budgeted to do any major repair this year. The city has been sharing costs with the township on this section of road from Highway 55 to the railroad crossing-about ½ mile. They will take a closer look at it in the near future. Steve will be getting a quote on crack filling soon as it should be done in the spring. The south pump at the lift station was installed last week and by Saturday the seal was leaking again. WW Goetsch is checking with the manufacturer on this. Public Works is continuing to monitor the manholes on 4<sup>th</sup> Street North and haven't seen any problems.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor