

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Mayor Eder called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Melody Gertken, Brenda Carlson arrived at 6:38 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Steve Geislinger, Kent Louwagie, Duane Peterson, Deputy Josh Case, Scott Piccerillo, Darian Geislinger, Holly Geislinger, EV-W Voice, Tri-County News, Jerry Hesse, Mark Geislinger, Clerk Deb Kramer

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the January 8, 2015 regular meeting, January financial report, Resolution #2015-9, Resolution Accepting Donations and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-

Jean Matua with Tri-County News addressed the council's decision to appoint the EV-W Voice as the city's official paper based on its displeasure of the pool calendar. Jean noted she billed for the exact fee agreed upon before the project began. She asked that Tri-County News be reappointed as the official paper. It was discussed to have two council persons, Jean and pool manager Nora Rohrbeck meet and discuss the issues and the findings be brought back to the next council meeting. Brenda Carlson arrived at this time. Brenda Carlson and Sue Unterberger will meet with Jean and Nora February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO TABLE THE OFFICIAL PAPER DECISION UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION IS GATHERED, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Scott Piccerillo addressed the council regarding the new building at the skating rink. The cost is going to be approximately \$5,900.00. Piccerillo noted the costs incurred by the Lions Club to cover the prizes of the pool calendar raffle due to lack of sales of calendars. The Lions have contributed \$5,000.00 to the Park and Rec Fund and requested that \$3,500.00 of that be used for the building supply expenses and the remaining \$1,500.00 for operations of the skating rink. This building will be used mostly for storage of city equipment. The Lions will have a small, locked area for storage. The Lions Club asked the city to cover the remaining expenses of \$2,500.00 for the new building.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO PAY THE \$2,500.00, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Jerry Hesse noted property at 240 Meeker Avenue South has two appliances setting out front along with other junk. Kramer noted the city also received a written complaint on this. A letter will be sent to the homeowner advising they have ten days to clean up or further action will be taken.

Deputy Case presented the Sheriff's report. There were 44 calls for service in January, 23 of which were traffic stops. Case has issued five or six citations for snow parking violations. Case also noted in February there has been some vehicle thefts as well as some ATV's stolen from Mies Outland.

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

City Engineer Kent Louwagie updated the council on the water tower contract. The contractors came late in the season last year but the project never got started. Kent has been negotiating with the contractor to cover costs incurred by the city and county in preparation of the contracted work. The contractor has agreed to complete additional items at no cost to be able to extend the completion date. Kent noted no action was needed on the matter at this time.

Kent presented the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Luella Street Improvement Project. The proposed project area would extend along Luella Street from CSAH 2 to Meeker Avenue North. The sanitary sewer service pipe to Hilltop Health Care Center is planned to be replaced from the manhole at Western Avenue to the north right of way line of Luella Street. The sewer service pipe is egg-shaped, indicating the pipe may be at risk of collapse. The rest of the sanitary sewer is in good condition. The existing watermain is in good condition; however, there is a valve in the Western Avenue intersection that leaks which would be replaced. Additional drainage structures and pipe are planned at the Western Avenue intersection to improve drainage in that area. Street improvements include spot replacement of curb where needed, spot soil correction and excavating the street between the curbs. The cost of the project increased due to the valve replacement and sewer pipe replacement. The estimated costs total \$143,500.00. This project would be assessed as the city has done in the past. Preliminary costs are \$23.70/front foot. There would be about \$36,000.00 total in assessments. Council called for the improvement hearing to be held Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-11, RESOLUTION RECEIVING FEASIBILITY REPORT AND CALLING HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger noted both pools are need of painting. Steve had a quote from Henkemeyer Coatings for \$6,500.00 and a quote from A+ Painting for \$5,564.99. Prep work would be done by Public Works. Steve noted there is a short window in the spring to do the work but he is confident it can be done.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ACCEPT A+ PAINTING'S QUOTE OF \$5,564.99, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve noted he spoke with Meeker County Engineer Ron Mortenson about sanding the streets if the city needs backup. Mortenson will be in contact with him on this. Steve is also trying to get back up for snow removal in case equipment breaks down. Steve got another quote for a wing for the plow truck. Crysteel Truck quoted \$12,480, noting any moving or altering of any truck chassis item would be billed at time and material. Steve noted they can do without a wing. The benefit of the wing would be to

plow faster. He wasn't aware of any complaints on plowing or removal. Council tabled the discussion until fall.

Steve reported the heater for the kiddie pool should be replaced. There is only one heater for that pool. Voss Plumbing quoted a price of \$4,437 for a new one installed. Kramer will review the pool budget. No action was taken on the heater.

Mark Geislinger was present on behalf of Centra Sota Cooperative. When the permits were approved for the two new tanks, it was also approved for them to relocate two small tanks to that same area. They would like to apply to the state for the relocation of three tanks so in the future if they want to move another tank they don't have to submit another application. Mark would like to apply for relocation of 3 - 30,000 gallon tanks. If approved by the city, he would need documentation for the application. The Planning Commission did recommend approval of this to the council. It would get tanks away from the nearby residential area and the commission felt that was a good thing. The Planning Commission recommended Centra Sota be allowed to relocate three tanks with a maximum capacity of 30,000 gallons each.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ALLOW CENTRA SOTA TO RELOCATE THREE TANKS WITH A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 30,000 GALLONS EACH, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business-

State Baseball Tournament -- The Joint Powers Agreement with the baseball association states that two current council members shall be appointed to serve on its board at all times. Due to elections, there is currently only one council member on the board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPOINT FRANK EDER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Welcome Sign- The baseball association will pay for the sign. Cost will be \$125 and it will be put on the back of the concession building.

Welcome flags- Council advised Kramer not to pursue this as it is not a priority.

Council reviewed past water/sewer billings for pool. Geislinger thought there was a lot of water that evaporates. He estimated about 75% of the water went down the sewer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO DECREASE THE SEWER CHARGE BY 25%, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPOINT BRENDA CARLSON AND MATT FABER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 2015-1, ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF WATKINS PERTAINING TO CITY COUNCIL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF WATKINS  
PERTAINING TO CITY COUNCIL

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATKINS, MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 30.04 of the Municipal Code of the City of Watkins, Minnesota (Meetings) is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 30.04 MEETINGS.

The regular meetings of the City Council shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at a time set by the City Council. Any member who is unable to attend shall notify the City Clerk or another Council member.

Section 2. This ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

Ordained by the Watkins City Council this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.

Those Council Members voting for: Tschumperlin, Unterberger, Gertken, Carlson

Those Council Members voting against: none

ATTEST: (SEAL)

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Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

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Frank Eder, Mayor

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE 2014 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER REPORT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

New Business—

Personnel Policy-Section 13 regarding monthly stipend no longer applies.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO DELETE SECTION 13 FROM THE PERSONNEL POLICY, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MnWARN membership was discussed. This would be a mutual aid agreement to provide a program where water, wastewater, and storm water utilities sustaining physical damage from natural or man-made disasters in the state of MN can obtain emergency assistance, in the form of personnel, equipment, and materials and other associated services necessary to protect the health and welfare of the utilities' customers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-10, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GOVERNMENTAL UNIT TO BE A PARTY TO MINNESOTA WATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (MnWARN), SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

EDA update- The board is working with a company interested in the property on Highway 55 East.

Ryan Beck submitted a letter of resignation from the Watkins Fire Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ACCEPT RYAN BECK'S RESIGNATION FROM THE WATKINS FIRE DEPARTMENT, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

There will be an upcoming Board of Equalization training in Waite Park on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m. Carlson and Eder will attend.

Kramer noted it has been city policy to allow non-profit organizations to use the Village Hall one time per year at no charge and asked if council wanted to continue with this policy. Council advised to stay with the same policy.

The Fire Department has requested approval to proceed with getting a new pumper. The fire district gave its approval at the annual fire protection meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ALLOW THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH PURCHASING A NEW PUMPER, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO INCREASE THE WATKINS FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION PER MAN YEAR RETIREMENT TO \$1,100.00, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Annual Board of Equalization meeting will be Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The March city council meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Council concerns-

Tschumperlin addressed the appearance and safety of the building owned by Fred Drontle on Central Avenue. Kramer will contact Meeker County Building Inspector for his assistance on the matter. Tschumperlin talked to Shorty Nistler about the fence at his business. Nistler will be removing the fence.

Council advised to put the ambulance service and bills on the agenda after the Sheriff's report.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY GERTKEN. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor