

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018

Mayor Eder called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of the December 14, 2017 regular meeting, December financial report, Resolution #2018-1, Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution #2018-2, Resolution Approving Transfers, Resolution #2018-3, Resolution Making Appointments for Authorized Signers, Resolution #2018-4, Resolution Approving Payment of Certain Monthly Bills, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Nothing for public forum.

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

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE FOURTH QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Council reviewed quotes for an outdoor warning siren. Kramer solicited quotes from American Signal for its T-128 model and from Federal Signal for its 2001-130 model. These are both rotating sirens and quoted in an AC model, AC/DC model and DC model. The following are quotes for the siren only, no pole or installation. Pole and installation are options to the quotes, but Kramer noted she has been in contact with Meeker Cooperative about purchasing a pole and having the local electricians hook up the siren. **American Signal T-128: AC/DC - \$12,450.36. DC - \$10,847.72. AC - \$10,334.48. Federal Signal 2001-130: AC/DC - \$11,627.65. DC - \$10,272.01. AC - \$9,355.93.**

Nathan Siudak with American Signal also brought a quote for their omni-directional siren and told council that siren would work well for the city. He noted that a rotating siren has an extra part that could cause maintenance over time. The AC/DC and DC models both use batteries. There is a 2-year warranty on the cabinet and 5-year warranty on the siren. They have service locations in Anoka and Worthington. Nathan estimated about 6 weeks from start to finish.

Carlson asked if Federal Signal had a 6-week turn around as well? Kramer was unsure. A representative from Federal Signal was unable to attend the meeting.

Nathan noted they have done a frequency study between American Signal and Federal Signal. American Signal's range is about 1.4 miles and Federal's is about 1 mile.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO TABLE THE MATTER UNTIL THE FEBRUARY MEETING TO ALLOW COUNCIL TIME TO REVIEW, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Tom Landwehr was present to discuss renewing the gravel lease and land lease he has with the city. The gravel lease expires April 16, 2018. Tom has sold the farm to his son, Steven, and he would like to renew the gravel lease another 15 years. Carlson asked if the going rate was still .40/ cubic yard. Tom felt it was high enough. On the farm land, Tom noted they pasture everything but 32 acres. The lease is for 60 acres to be planted. Tom felt to leave the land lease as is, as there are at least 60 acres of tillable ground. Geislinger noted the pivot has been rotating. Tom asked if the city would be interested in going further south in the gravel mining. Geislinger noted it wouldn't affect any irrigation. Wirz felt the council should table this until next meeting. He would like to see the site before moving forward.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO TABLE UNTIL NEXT MEETING TO ALLOW TIME TO REVIEW THE LEASES, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

EDA update – Tschumperlin reported that a developer contacted the city about building homes, but he was looking for something on a larger scale. The board is still looking to do something with the lot on Central Avenue; possibly a business with housing. Tschumperlin noted she would not be in favor of putting up a building if it's for housing only. The board is looking at costs, etc. to see what can be done. The EDA also purchased the empty townhome pads at Glenshire Estates in December. Carlson noted she was preparing a letter about a clinic in Watkins. Discussion followed on this. Mayor Eder noted Meeker County Hospital doesn't have funding for a clinic. A pharmacy is still something that could be pursued.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-5, RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2018 APPOINTMENTS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The appointments are as follows: Acting Mayor – Kathleen Tschumperlin, Street Commissioner – Kathleen Tschumperlin, Water Commissioner – Brenda Carlson, Sewer Commissioner – Brenda Carlson, Police Commissioner – Sue Unterberger, Shade Tree Commissioner – Marc Wirz
Depositing Bank – Farmers State Bank of Watkins & Northland Securities
Animal Control Officer – Meeker County Sheriff's Office
Emergency Management Director – Meeker County Sheriff's Office
Official Newspaper – Tri County News, Kimball, MN
City Attorney – Daniel Zimmermann and Boe Piras– Willenbring Law Office
Prosecuting Attorney – Meeker County Attorney
Election Clerk – Deb Kramer
Weed Inspector – Frank Eder
The appointed Water Commissioner, the City Clerk and the Water Treatment Operator shall also serve on the Eden Valley-Watkins Joint Water Commission Board. Watkins Planning Commission – Marc Wirz: 1-1-2018 to 1-1-2021. Dennis Loch: 1-1-2018 to 1-1-2021.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-6, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE STAMPS FOR MAYOR AND ACTING MAYOR, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The Lions Club has requested a temporary on-sale liquor license for Saturday, February 10th for its bocce ball event at the skating rink facility.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE WATKINS LIONS CLUB FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the following forms for use: land use permit application, peddler, solicitor and transient merchant license application, solicitor registration, assessment search, village hall contract, water/sewer service application and application to connect to water/sewer. Kramer noted some of these forms are being used at this time, while others are new or amended.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE ABOVE FORMS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Annual Fire Protection meeting will be Wednesday, February 14th at 8 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

The Watkins Baseball Association approved the joint powers agreement as amended. Mayor Eder noted the school lease between the city and school district would supersede this agreement.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE WATKINS BALL PARK JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Eder also noted there was discussion of the baseball club making charitable gambling donations to the city for the purposes of field maintenance, etc. Kramer checked with the auditors on this. Per state statute, a city can support facilities and public recreation programs. A city cannot support a team with uniforms, bats, etc. Kramer noted if a fund established, that it should be made clear what expenses are allowable. Once the money is donated to the city, the public purpose expenditure law must be followed.

There are three properties in the township that hooked up to city sewer after the 2007 street/utility project. When they connected, council approved a rate equal to what Clear Lake property owners were being charged by its sewer service district. The rate set in 2008 was \$31.50 per month and remains at that today. Kramer checked and found that Clear Lake owners are now at \$115.60 per quarter or \$38.50 per month. Discussion was also held on the rate charged by the city to the Clear Lake Subordinate Service District (the "District") for the sewer treated by the city. The agreement was drafted in 2000 and states the District shall pay quarterly, within thirty (30) days, a cost of use based on actual volume at a rate of 110% of that charged to Watkins' users per thousand gallons. This rate has increased once in 2005 while city residents have seen a few increases since then. The District is currently charged \$4.40 per

thousand gallons. This agreement with the District also expires in 2020 and renewal negotiations are to start 3 years prior. Council agreed the agreement needs to be updated and that an increase in rates needs to be proposed. Council advised to send a letter to Forest Prairie Township about the upcoming expiration of the agreement and the city's intent to increase the rate. A 90-day notice must be given to the District for any increase. The other 3 accounts that have city sewer will be handled after a rate is set for the District.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO SEND A LETTER TO FOREST PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP REGARDING THE AGREEMENT AND RATES AND FORWARD THE AGREEMENT TO THE CITY ATTORNEY TO REVIEW, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Kramer reported that the credits from the solar garden the city subscribed to started November 1st. This garden is owned by Berkshire Hathaway Energy Business.

Councilor Tschumperlin left the meeting at this time.

Geronimo Energy contacted the city about subscribing to a garden located in Forest Prairie Township. This garden would be on the north side of Fourth Street, across from Barrier Technology. Geronimo would own this garden. They have 3 subscribers, but need 5 in order for the garden to be built. Council agreed to have Geronimo put a proposal together.

Council discussed implementing an independent contractor agreement for any work performed in the city. Discussion followed about insurance requirements and OSHA standards. It was also questioned if the city could have a list of approved contractors that residents would be required to use when it affects city infrastructure. Council agreed to pursue implementing some type of agreement.

Meeker County Sheriff's Office has been trying to serve papers from the city's attorney on the owners of property at 151 First Street and have been unsuccessful. The next step would be to publish the notice if they can't serve it personally. The cost for publishing typically runs \$350 to \$500.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE PUBLICATION IF NEEDED, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The annual Board of Equalization and Appeal meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th at 7 p.m.

Council reviewed a memo from the city engineer regarding the water tower and funding through the state's bonding bill.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO REPRESENTATIVE URDAHL AND REQUEST TO INCLUDE IN THE STATE'S BONDING BILL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger reported the heaters at the Village Hall bathrooms should be replaced. The heaters are old, are not working properly and the wiring is deteriorating. Kramer Electric quoted four heaters at \$240 each plus labor to install. Total estimated cost is \$1,000. Steve also got a quote from Kramer's to run power to the new welcome signs and install lights. Meeker Cooperative would need to extend power to each site. Meeker Coop's charge would be \$3,993 total. Kramer Electric's quote to install lights would be \$2,164. Total project cost would be \$6,157 for power and lights. Carlson will bring this up at the next EDA meeting to see if they would pay for the power and lights since they purchased the signs.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO REPLACE THE HEATERS AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council also approved to get an estimate from Kramer Electric on repairing the wiring for the theater group area at the Village Hall.

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor