

APPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

Mayor Rowan called the 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: Duane Peterson, Jody Bauer, Jeff Hilsgen, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Bryan Landwehr, Brian Harff, Bruce Geislinger, Deputy Sandstrom, Clerk Deb Kramer

Mayor Rowan added a request from the Lions Club for a temporary on-sale liquor license to the agenda.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and December 13<sup>th</sup> special meeting, December financial report, Resolution No. 2022-1, Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution No. 2022-2, Resolution Approving Transfer of Funds, Resolution No. 2022-3, Resolution Approving Payment of Certain Monthly Bills, Resolution No. 2022-4, Resolution Approving Payment of Certain Monthly Bills for Ambulance Service, and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum- none

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

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

Ambulance Chief Jeff Hilsgen reported the service has changed over to electronic reporting for all runs.

Bryan Landwehr, Bruce Geislinger and Brian Harff were present on behalf of the Watkins Baseball Club. The club would like to build a hitting facility at the baseball park. They don't qualify for a bank loan due to having limited collateral. They are looking for enough funds to get the shell of the building up. The labor and materials will run approximately \$120,000. The Watkins Lions Club has been approached and the baseball club was advised to check with Eden Valley Lions also. The baseball club is looking for \$65,000 to get the shell of the building up. Landwehr noted this could be a donation or loan. The facility would be used by EV-W students as well as the Watkins Clippers. The building is 60' x 120' and water and sewer lines are in. Geislinger noted Watkins was selected to host the 2027 state tournament and that would be a substantial money maker. Mayor Rowan noted nothing was guaranteed by either Lions Club at this time. Harff noted this building would be used year-round once completed. Landwehr

noted if they could get a commitment for \$65,000, they could start on the shell. Wirz noted the city would need to cover its interest that it would be losing if a loan is made. Landwehr noted the baseball club will want to keep improving the park as well as paying off the loan. Council noted they need to check with the auditors to be sure a loan would be allowable and if so, term and interest rate would need to be determined. This will be followed up on at the February 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

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

Mobile home park update – Council reviewed a rejuvenation plan submitted by the owner. There was no timeline on this plan, nor was it signed. Council discussed checking with MN Department of Health to see where they are at with its orders and get a signed rejuvenation plan with timelines/deadlines.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO PROCEED WITH FOLLOWUP WITH MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND PUSH BACK TO OWNER TO GET A DOCUMENTED PLAN WITH DEADLINE AND SIGNATURE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the ordinance updates. Changes will be made as discussed. Council tabled until the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Kramer noted a mistake was made last month on the liquor license request by St. Anthony Church. Kramer noted they wanted a two-day license for the Cabin Fever Reliever event – February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR ST. ANTHONY CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 13<sup>TH</sup>, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Fire Fighter physicals – Wirz noted the city does not require physicals for the Fire Department but most cities do. The department would like to require this for new applicants. There is state grant available now that could pay for turnout gear but a physical is required. The physicals would be at the city's expense.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO REQUIRE PHYSICALS AT THE CITY'S EXPENSE FOR NEW FIRE FIGHTERS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Irrigation agreement – One of the farmers that gets water from the city's wastewater site for irrigation of crops has requested an adjustment for 2021 as he feels he didn't get enough water. Geislinger noted this farmer did get the most rounds in 2021. He got 8 rounds at about ½ inch each round. He did opt out one time due to spraying the crop. The agreement states he has to take 8 inches of water. Geislinger noted on a regular season he tries to give 12 rounds but 2021 was an extremely dry season. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO DENY THE REQUEST, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

CentraCare requested the council to consider adopting a resolution to support masking requirements, vaccination (and boosters), and social distancing in the city due to the COVID spike. Council acknowledged and discussed the request but didn't take any action.

2021 appointments were reviewed. Kramer noted the council must appoint one elected city official and one elected or appointed city official to serve with the city's fire chief on the board of trustees for the city's fire relief association. The mayor has served on the board in the past but it's never been included in the appointments. Carlson noted she would serve on the board with the mayor.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-5, RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2022 APPOINTMENTS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-6, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE STAMPS FOR THE MAYOR AND ACTING MAYOR, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-7, RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR AUTHORIZED SIGNERS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The annual fire protection meeting shall be held Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ALLOW FOREST PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP TO USE CITY HALL FOR ITS ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE WATKINS LIONS CLUB REQUEST FOR A TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR ITS BOCCE BALL EVENT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Geislinger asked approval to attend MRWA's annual conference in St. Cloud March 1-3, along with Liebreuz.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE FOR GEISLINGER AND LIEBREUZ TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger reported that Xcel Energy will be replacing transmission lines in the spring. The project will start in Kimball and go west.

Wirz noted that he, Geislinger and Elementary Principal Rob Pederson met at the little league field. They are getting some estimates for improvements to be used for a grant application through the Twins organization.

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

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

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Mayor Chris Rowan