

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Sue Unterberger, Tootz Tschumperlin, Marc Wirz. Brenda Carlson arrived at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes from the June 8, 2017 regular meeting, June financial report, Resolution #2017-20, Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution #2017-21, Resolution Approving Transfers, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum—Emily [Bates] was present to discuss a letter she received about her unpermitted swimming pool. The letter stated that a permit must be applied for and there is also a \$250 penalty fee for work done without a permit. Bates noted she didn't know a permit was needed. She rents the property and the owner was supposed to replace the fence after it was damaged by the tornado but hasn't yet. Council noted she was not the only one to receive this letter. After some discussion, Wirz stated the fine for doing work without a permit will be in effect regardless. He noted it was unfortunate, but that is the ordinance. Bates noted the fence was out of her hands and asked if the fine could be waived. Wirz noted the city could not make any exceptions. Bates went on to ask if people can burn grass in town. She contacted City Hall about it and was told to file a written complaint. She questioned if it was an ordinance violation why a complaint had to be filed. Clerk Kramer noted the city needs a written complaint so it knows who to contact and that it is a legitimate complaint. Bates also noted that speeding is a concern on the street she lives on. She asked if signs could be put up. City Hall informed her she could purchase and put a sign on her property but she could not put one in city right-of-way. Carlson asked if the city could put up a "Children at Play" sign. Public Works Director Geislinger noted there were some signs that could be put up.

Scott Piccerillo requested use of McCarthy Park on September 16th. Bud's Bar will be doing a bike run benefit for Brent Geislinger and the Lions Club will be helping. Everything would be wrapped up at the park by 7 or 8 p.m. that evening. Piccerillo also asked if the city would waive the \$150 damage deposit for the park use. The Lions Club will be requesting a liquor license for the event.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO WAIVE THE \$150 DAMAGE DEPOSIT FOR THE EVENT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Wayne Dockendorf reported he has been having sewer backup problems. The ordinance states that up to the "Y" is the homeowner's responsibility. Geislinger noted the main line is good. Dockendorf asked if the city could pay half. Wirz noted if the city did it for one it would have to do it for everyone.

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

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE SECOND QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Representative Dean Urdahl recapped the 2017 Legislative Session. He noted the bonding bill, tax bill and transportation bill all got done this session. The bonding bill should have been passed last session but they didn't get that done. The transportation bill included \$16 million for streets for small cities under 5,000. Urdahl noted Watkins would receive about \$21,000 [over a 2 year period]. There was also an increase in Local Government Aid funding. Urdahl noted next session will be a bonding session again and if the city has any projects it's looking at to let him know.

The Lions Club requested an off-site gambling permit to sell pull tabs at McCarthy Park during Kraut N' Wurst.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2017-22, RESOLUTION APPROVING OFF-SITE GAMBLING, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Kramer noted there was a complaint filed regarding dogs running at large. A letter was sent to the owner of the dogs advising the owner that was prohibited in the city and also advised the owner the dogs were not licensed per City Ordinance. A second letter was sent as final notice stating what the penalty was for not complying with the licensing requirement and there has been no response from the owner. Deputy Defries attempted to contact the owner a couple times and was unsuccessful. The next step is for Defries to either mail a citation for the Ordinance violation or he can cite them for a state statute violation and the fine would be higher. Council advised Defries to mail a citation for an Ordinance violation.

Deputy Defries noted National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 1st. In the past it has been held at the Fire Hall. There has not been a lot of advertising for it in the past. The Sheriff wants each of the contract cities to try and get an organization or group that would head up planning for the event. Council noted it was hard to do this year with the short notice and being that Kraut N' Wurst is right after that. Asking a committee within St. Anthony Church was mentioned but it was noted the church is busy planning its fall festival now. Wirz thought something different should be done if it's going to be continued. The attendance in the past has been very low. Council agreed it was hard to do this year and would need to discuss it early next year. It is always the first Tuesday in August. Possibly a group from St. Anthony Parish would be interested in taking it on or maybe someone in the community would be interested. Council will discuss more early next year.

Mobile home park streets—Mayor Eder noted that Joe Nistler, Sr. said the city blacktopped the streets and then took them over. The city engineer thought their office could draft the easements if the city decided to accept ownership. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO HAVE THE CITY ENGINEER DRAFT EASEMENTS TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP OF THE STREETS IN THE MOBILE HOME PARK, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION MADE BY UNTERBERGER NOT TO WAIVE THE CITY'S MONETARY LIMITS ON MUNICIPAL TORT LIABILITY ESTABLISHED BY MN STATUTES 466.04, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission Update—Wirz noted the board had a discussion on non-permitted swimming pools. Letters were sent to those that were non-compliant notifying them they had ten days to get an approved permit or remove it. A \$250 penalty fee for erecting without a permit will apply.

EDA Update—Carlson asked about the new Welcome signs. Kramer noted they have been ordered and should be installed soon. Carlson reported the EDA board recommended the appointment of Joe Kuechle, Jr. to the EDA board.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPOINT JOE KUECHLE, JR. TO THE WATKINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Pool manager Ashlee Lundberg reported they have 13 private lessons scheduled for the season. They are in the middle of the third session of lessons. There were 125 students that came through the first two sessions. Ashlee questioned if she could put up a free will donation jar at the pool for a local child who has cancer to help with hair extension costs. Council advised Ashlee to talk to the family and if they are okay with it to go ahead. Ashlee asked about reimbursement for an employee who took a water safety instructor course in May. At the April meeting, council approved to reimburse staff who took the course based on the manager's recommendation. One-half would then be refunded at the end of this season and the other half at the end of next season. The maximum amount was \$300. At the June meeting, Ashlee reported 3 staff had already gotten their water safety instruction certification before council approved this and she wasn't in need of any more this year. Carlson felt if that's what the city agreed to it should reimburse. Unterberger felt the city should only reimburse the one staff person who turned in a receipt. Council agreed to reimburse just the one at this time.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT AT ONE HALF THE COST AT END OF SEASON, WITH A RECEIPT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The second half will be reimbursed at the end of the 2018 season provided the employee returns for the season.

The tables and noodles the Legion Club donated money for are in use at the pool.

Kramer requested approval to get quotes on 2 new computers in City Hall. The current computers are at least 6 years old.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO GET QUOTES FOR NEW COMPUTERS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Several years ago it was approved to reimburse lifeguards and WSI's up to \$40 for the purchase of one swimsuit per season. A formal policy was presented to council for its review.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE SWIMSUIT REIMBURSEMENT POLICY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

This will be added to the city's Pool Policy.

Kramer noted she was contacted on a Saturday at her home about a pool fill and neglected to tell the person a permit was needed. The party paid \$65 to have the pool filled. After realizing the mistake, it was found that the party couldn't meet setbacks and the pool had to be drained and removed. The party asked if he could get any type of reimbursement for this. Wirz noted this was discussed by the fire department as they are the ones that do the pool filling. Going forward the department will only fill pools on the first and third Mondays when they have meetings/trainings. They won't fill any without confirming they have a permit.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE ISSUING TWO 10-PUNCH CARDS TO THE PARTY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

City Hall was contacted by IPS Solar Company about a possible solar garden on Clearwater River Watershed District property on the northeast side of town and asked for the council's feedback on the idea. Council didn't have an issue with the proposed garden.

Kramer noted she applied for a grant through CP Rail in May for a siren. It is still under review at this time. If the city does get a new siren, council discussed possibly locating it at McCarthy Park. Council agreed that if the city is unsuccessful in getting a grant this year to include it in the 2018 budget.

Steve Geislinger noted MN Municipal Utility Association, the city's safety training provider, was out for a site visit. The city is in need of illuminated Exit signs. City Hall needs six of them and Village Hall will need some as well. Public Works needs to update its Lock Out/Tag Out program and get chaps to wear when operating a chain saw. Steve also reported both the extension ladder and step ladder need to be replaced. Four First Aid kits are also needed and the door knob on the back door of City Hall office should be changed to the lever style.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO PURCHASE WHAT IS NEEDED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve asked how council would like the city parks addressed for 911 purposes. Discussion followed but no action taken at this time. Steve noted the heater at the pool has been replaced.

Carlson noted the property at 261 Central Avenue South has got the roof sheathing on the house but no additional work since then. Carlson noted she also got a complaint about the owner burning cabinets in the back yard and advised the complainant to file a formal complaint at City Hall. Carlson felt that no work was progressing and the city needs to keep on top of this. The tornado was over a year ago. Council felt another letter from the city wasn't going to make a difference. Kramer asked if council wanted the city attorney to reach out to the owner.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO INVOLVE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL WORK ON THE HOUSE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Next regular meeting is Thursday, August 10th at 7 p.m.

Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor