

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Jason Laumer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Jody Bauer, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Defries and Clerk Deb Kramer

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the June 11th regular meeting and June 22nd special meeting, June financial report, Resolution #2020-13, Resolution Accepting Donations and Resolution #2020-14, Resolution Approving Transfers.

Public Forum – none

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

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE 2ND QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Water shutoff notices and late fees were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council agreed to put them both back in place. One account is five months past due. A letter was sent a couple months ago, but they haven't paid anything since February. Council agreed to allow residents with past due accounts the same number of months to catch up as they are behind, i.e. 5 months past due would get 5 months to bring the account current.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO GO BACK TO STANDARD SHUT OFF POLICY BEGINNING AUGUST 1ST, ALLOWING ACCOUNTS THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME TO BRING ACCOUNT CURRENT AS THE NUMBER OF MONTHS BEHIND, AND PENALTY FEES BACK IN PLACE WITH THE AUGUST BILLING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer requested approval to adjust the May bill at the elementary school after discovering the low flow side of the irrigation meter was not working properly. The school was billed for 84,000 gallons. Their average when in session is 11,000 gallons. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADJUST THE SCHOOL'S BILL TO 11,000 GALLONS USAGE FOR MAY, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed proposals from Marco and Coordinated Business Systems for a new copier/printer. Marco's proposal was for a HP machine with unlimited printing for \$102.25/month for five years with the price locked in. Coordinated Business Systems proposal was for a Kyocera machine at \$104/month for 3,000 copies/month. Overages would be .0097/print. Their rate is also locked in. Coordinated would also give a check to the city for \$1,000 to cover the remainder of the lease with Marco (\$484), leaving \$516 for the city. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO GO WITH PROPOSAL FROM COORDINATED BUSINESS SYSTEMS, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed the CARES Act funds (Coronavirus Relief Fund) being distributed by the state. The city aid amount is \$72,025. The city must submit a certification to the state to receive the money. There are several dates to certify by, the last being September 15th for cities over 200. Any aid amount remaining unexpended by November 15, 2020 must be sent to the home county in which the city is located. If a city chooses not to certify for the aid, the money would stay at the state level. Discussion followed on what the city could use the aid for as there are guidelines to follow relating to COVID-19. Some ideas that may be eligible would be items for protection of election judges, special meeting expense related to COVID-19, reduction in liquor license fees due to the businesses having to shut down. Kramer will check with neighboring cities to see what they are doing and Wirz will contact Meeker County to see if they would be able to use anything unexpended by the city. Council agreed to table until the August meeting.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ACCEPT MARK GEISLINGER'S RETIREMENT FROM THE WATKINS FIRE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE 8-1-2020, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Laumer received a complaint about a camper being parked on a city alley between School Avenue and Western Avenue. It hasn't moved since it was moved there. Rodents are a concern as well.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO SEND THE RESIDENT A LETTER ASKING HIM TO MOVE IT, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO SKIP NATIONAL NIGHT OUT THIS YEAR, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

It was reported that rescue/ambulance members are washing personal vehicles in the city garage. This is not allowed. Eder will talk to the ambulance chief about this and if there are any more complaints council will take action.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE AN ON-SALE TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR ST. ANTHONY PARISH FOR ITS ANNUAL FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 13TH, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council approved to order 4 plastic barriers for election judges for upcoming elections.

J & R Family Market will be doing a store reset in August. They will need to close down for a few days and requested permission to park a semi-trailer on Central Avenue to store items in while shut down.

Council approved and advised to put traffic cones out to mark the trailer. They are also installing new refrigeration and will have compressors outside the south wall. If they put a fence up between the buildings to enclose the area a permit will be required. The request to use the empty lot on Central Avenue for some storage will be on the EDA's July 13th agenda.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger presented two quotes from Midwest Asphalt for some crack filling and patching. The quote for crack filling at Glenshire Estates, Faber Addition, the fire hall and a couple other locations was \$22,330. A quote for air injection patching in some areas was \$5,600. Geislinger would like to include 667th with the rest of the work. Geislinger noted the city shares 667th with Forest Prairie Township (from Highway 55 to the railroad tracks) and the cost for the city's share would be approximately an additional \$1,000. Geislinger noted he would like to have the crack filling done this year and then seal coat in 2021.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE STREET MAINTENANCE WORK, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger noted a pump at the wastewater treatment site will probably need to be serviced later this year. Geislinger requested approval to use more than 40 hours PTO in August.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE EXTENDED TIME OFF, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, August 13th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder
Mayor