

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

Mayor Rowan called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Jody Bauer, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Defries, Jeff Hilsgen, Randy Hesse, Clerk Deb Kramer

Mayor Rowan added the following to the agenda after item #21: personnel committee, ordinance updates, and complaint on chickens.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRINTED, WITH THE ADDITIONS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of May 13th public hearing and regular meeting, May financial report, Resolution No. 2021-17, Resolution Accepting Donations.

Public Forum – none

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

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

Fire Hall furnace and a/c – Wirz noted the air conditioner at the fire hall is down. The unit quoted at last month's meeting wouldn't cool the office or bathrooms. The unit there now is a 1992 model. St. Cloud Refrigeration quoted a price of \$10,930 for a new furnace and a/c unit that would cool the same as the current one. The electrical work would be supplied by a local contractor.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FOR NEW FURNACE AND A/C AT FIRE HALL, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Water leak at Mueller's – Kramer checked with the city's insurance. The city's deductible is \$1,000. Kramer noted in the past the city has paid out some minor damages due to the city's sewer main line being plugged. After discussion, council agreed to submit a claim to the city's insurance.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO SUBMIT A CLAIM TO THE CITY'S INSURANCE, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Nate Bork with Quantum Data Systems presented some quotes for IT work. He noted a server would store the computer information. The city would need to decide what to store. The quote for the server is \$5,861 plus labor estimated between \$960 to \$1,120. Nate also quoted encrypted Cloud long-term Archive Vault storage (undeletable for a specified period of time) at \$1,100, which would be an annual fee. He noted this is permanent and would be more for disaster type situations. Another option quoted was encrypted Cloud Working-Data Vault package, a revolving storage of all working files, for \$600, which would be an annual fee as well. Nate noted there is a 10% discount special on anti-ransomware during June. Nate also presented a quote for VoIP PBX for each location and business VoIP phones at a cost of \$1,796. Labor costs are additional and there would be a monthly fee for the VoIP service. A main unit would control all the extensions. This would be completely separate from the server and cloud storage. He recommended a new firewall be installed if the city goes with the new phone system. Nate noted payment for equipment is due upon order and labor is due after installed. Discussion followed. Council didn't feel the need to change the phone system if the present one is working fine. Carlson asked to get another quote on the server and cloud storage.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO TABLE AND GET SECOND QUOTE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Alley vacation resolution – Kramer noted that a different resolution needs to be adopted that includes findings of facts. This will be on the July agenda.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-18, A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Small Cities Development Program – Carlson suggested the city apply for funding when the application period opens. Kramer noted there would be some professional services that would be needed to complete the application.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO START A COMMITTEE TO PURSUE THE APPLICATION OF SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Mini Biff at McCarthy Park – There was damage to the unit and it had to be removed. Council discussed and agreed to place another one in the park.

Fields for Kids Program – This is a matching grant opportunity through the MN Twins Community Fund to improve baseball and/or softball facilities for youth. Kramer noted the little league field near the school could use some improvements and maybe this would be an opportunity for the school and city to partner together on this. The city cannot apply for this on its own as it has to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or local government that operates youth baseball/softball programs. Wirz noted he would check with the school district on this. Jeff Hilsgen noted the Lions Club could donate to this also.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FROM THE WATKINS FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION FOR KRAUT N' WURST AUGUST 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO DISCONTINUE THE CONFERENCE CALL-IN FOR MEETINGS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Wastewater site land rent – Landwehr’s repaired a tile line that was bad and changed some pasture land to tillable. Wirz felt the renter should have come to the city first before doing the work. The lease has the pasture land at a lower rate than the tillable land. It was noted this improvement shouldn’t be used as leverage down the road. No action was taken.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO END THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REGULATING THE TEMPORARY CREATION AND EXTENSION OF COMMERCIAL SPACE AS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC, (ORDINANCE 2020-1) AND GIVE A 30-DAY NOTICE TO ESTABLISHMENTS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer asked if the council wanted to renew the Code Red agreement with Meeker County when it comes due. Kramer noted the responses to collect residents’ contact information hasn’t been as successful as the city hoped. Council agreed to find out what the cost is and put on the July agenda for further discussion.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19, RESOLUTION APPROVING OFF-SITE GAMBLING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed setting up a personnel committee that would consist of two council members and the department head for each department.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO CREATE A PERSONNEL COMMITTEE WITH TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Unterberger and Carlson volunteered to serve on the personnel committee.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPOINT UNTERBERGER AND CARLSON TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council agreed to review the ordinance updates before having Justice Walker attend a meeting.

The city received a complaint on the keeping of chickens in the city. The resident does not have a permit for keeping of chickens. After discussion, council advised Deputy Defries to follow up on the complaint.

Council agreed not to post minutes until after they have been approved.

Kramer noted about a recent tax settlement between the State of MN and CenterPoint Energy. CenterPoint challenged the property tax rates set by the state and won the case, which now leaves local communities obligated to pay back the overcharged taxes with interest.

Geislinger presented two quotes for blacktopping on School Avenue to the north of 2nd Street South. There was work done to extend sewer for a future building at the baseball park and while doing this work it was found that a water line was not located as it was documented and was corrected. The area

needs to be blacktopped now. MN Paving & Materials quoted \$9,293.16 and Mid-MN Hot Mix quoted \$8,049.60.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID FROM MID-MN HOT MIX, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER.
MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger noted the city parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue North and 2nd Street North is in bad shape. Geislinger noted he could call 3 contractors for estimates. Council approved.

Rowan noted a sidewalk on Meeker Avenue South was heaving. Geislinger will check into it. Rowan also mentioned that a new law was passed in 2019 allowing a city to change the speed limits on its city streets without having to do a traffic study, etc.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, July 8th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan
Mayor