

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

Mayor Eder called the special meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Mayor Frank Eder, Jason Laumer, Marc Wirz, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Public Works Director Steve Geislinger. Clerk Kramer was present at City Hall.

Purpose of the meeting is to review and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and reopening of City Hall and return of staff, review and act on a copier/printer lease proposal, water meter for irrigation, use of baseball field for amateur baseball and review and act on the State of MN Deferred Loan Agreement for a 20-unit apartment building.

Council reviewed a draft of the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan which must be adopted by June 29<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed to add the following language to the "Leave policies for Staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19" section as follows: *If an employee is made aware that they have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they are required to remain at home and get tested for COVID-19. Employees must provide TWO negative test results before returning to work.*

Council discussed opening up City Hall and resuming normal operations. Tschumperlin felt it was feasible to open up for meetings and people could wait outside until called in and leave when done. Council noted staff should do what they feel necessary to keep customers and visitors away from work areas. Kramer noted some tables were set up to keep people in front of the front desk counter and hand sanitizer, tissues and waste basket are set up near the front and signs are posted. Kramer and Geislinger noted they felt the rest of the staff was ready to return immediately.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO RESCIND THE EMERGENCY ORDER AND RETURN TO REGULAR BUSINESS PRACTICE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT THE CITY OF WATKINS COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN WITH ADDITION, SECONDED BY LAUMER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted she hadn't received a reply from Marco on the terms for ending the copier/printer lease early and advised to wait until the city knows for sure what the process is and what the cost would be.

Ferguson Water Works met Geislinger at the elementary school to look at the irrigation meter for the baseball field. It appears not to be working on the low side. Some testing was done and they proposed a new meter that doesn't have the low/high flow components. It has no moving parts so it shouldn't be affected by the pressure at the school. Geislinger wasn't sure what the warranty was. The cost is \$875.

Installation would be an extra \$350 but Ferguson said Public Works would be able to install it. After discussion, council agreed to proceed if Geislinger feels the warranty is satisfactory.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO PROCEED WITH THE NEW METER AND HAVE GEISLINGER CHECK ON WARRANTY AND GO AHEAD IF HE FEELS IT IS SATISFACTORY, SECONDED BY LAUMER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Use of the baseball field for amateur ball was discussed. The MN Baseball Association is giving the go ahead if teams get the owner of the field's permission. The School District approved with some conditions, but the City leases it from the school and insures it. Eder noted he heard the Governor was going to give the approval to start on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Wirz felt it was okay as long as they follow the rules.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ALLOW USE OF THE FIELD FOR AMATEUR BASEBALL, SECONDED BY LAUMER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed the agreement with the State of MN for the deferred loan for the proposed apartment building. Kramer noted attorney Mary Ippel, who is working on the tax abatement agreement, said **Section 4.2 Repayment** in the agreement is in violation of state law. The language in the agreement reads as follows: *The Borrower promises to pay to the State the Program Funds with simple interest, if any, of 0% per annum accruing on such amounts of principal as may be advanced from time to time.* Mary asked the state to change the language and add "from available funds of the Borrower" to the sentence. Mary requested the state change the sentence to read as follows: *The Borrower promises to pay to the State from available funds of the Borrower the Program Funds with simple interest, if any, of 0% per annum accruing on such amounts of principal as may be advanced from time to time.* The state would not make the change. Mary advised the city to keep a copy of that email as they are requiring the city to violate state law in order to get the grant. Mary said the city could go ahead and sign the agreement.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE THE DEFERRED LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MN, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor