

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

Mayor Rowan called the regular meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Brenda Carlson, Marc Wirz. Tootz Tschumperlin arrived at 7:13 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

Others: Kent Louwagie, Duane Peterson, Jeff Hilsgen, Jody Bauer, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Reggie Sandstrom, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of the May 18th regular meeting, May 31st and June 1st special meetings, May financial report, Resolution No. 2022-17, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – Brenda Carlson removed herself as council person to discuss the sidewalk in front of her commercial property at 120 Central Avenue North. She noted the sidewalk has caved and asked the city to evaluate it. Public Works Director Geislinger has viewed it and found the curb stop has been open and is sinking. Carlson noted someone is doing cement work for her behind the building and could get a bid from him, but he is doing this on the side and there would be no guarantee on the sidewalk work. Discussion followed. Council agreed to have WestStar Curb and Concrete take a look at the sidewalk and give a quote. Geislinger will repair the curb stop. Geislinger noted there are some other areas of sidewalk in the city that have settled, especially by the Post Office. The city may need to have these lifted again as it did a few years ago.

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

Jody Bauer reported that three ambulance accounts have former Chief Bonnie Holthaus listed. It was approved at an earlier meeting to update the signature cards to list the ambulance service treasurer (Jody Bauer) and the mayor and council members. The checks would require the treasurer's signature and mayor and one council person or treasurer and two council persons. The chief would no longer be listed.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE CHANGE IN THE SIGNATURE CARDS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

City Engineer Kent Louwagie discussed the water and sewer lines and proposed easement with Tony Faber. Kent presented a drawing of the area showing the location of the recorded easements the city has on properties west of Faber Building. It appears the pipes may not fall completely within the described area of the recorded easements. Kent asked if the city would like to have the lines located

and televised to be confident of where they are located. Kent had a contractor's quote of \$1,700 to locate everything and \$900 for televising. Those quotes are based on no unforeseen issues. Geislinger will be contacting MN Rural Water Association to see if they can locate the water lines. Discussion followed and council agreed to have the lines located. Council advised that staff talk to Tony Faber about this.

MOTION BY CARSLON TO APPROVE HAVING THE LOCATING DONE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the April and May sheriff's reports.

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

SCDP (Small Cities Development Program) grant program. Kent noted Bolton and Menk doesn't really get into the administration side of these grants. UCAP (United Community Action Partnership) would administer if awarded. UCAP's fee for the application is \$7,500. If the grant were successful, the city would be required to supply \$20,000 for administration. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL FROM UCAP FOR THE SCDP GRANT APPLICATION SERVICES, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The Lions Club requested approval for off-site gambling at McCarthy Park for Kraut N' Wurst on August 6th.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-18, RESOLUTION APPROVING OFF-SITE GAMBLING PERMIT REQUEST, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Four bids were received for the sale of the 1992 Ford fire truck van.

- Jack's Oil - \$2,155
- Tom Larson - \$6,750
- Roger Host - \$6,200
- George Klein - \$2,711

MOTION BY WIRZ TO AWARD THE BID TO TOM LARSON, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The Watkins Fire Relief Association requested a temporary on-sale liquor license for Kraut N' Wurst August 5, 6, and 7th.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FOR AUGUST 5, 6, & 7TH, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Wirz noted that four new firemen have completed their schooling and three have completed and passed physicals required by the city. The fourth has not completed the physical yet due to timing issues.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO SEND THE NON-COMPLIANT FIREMAN A LETTER INFORMING HIM HE HAS SIXTY DAYS TO GET THE PHYSICAL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the city's Paid Time Off (PTO) policy. As the policy stands now, an employee is granted 144 hours or 12 hours per month after one year of consecutive full-time service. Carlson felt an employee should be able to use the PTO before the first year is up. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE PAID TIME OFF OF 3.34 HOURS PER MONTH FOR 0 TO 1 YEAR ACCRUAL, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council will hold a joint meeting with the EDA board to discuss development of the townhome lots at Glenshire Estates June 21st.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO CALL FOR A JOINT EDA/COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 21, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE NOTARY COMMISSION FOR DEPUTY CLERK SARAH JACOBSEN-KRONE, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Carlson noted she saw on Facebook that hours were being cut at the pool Saturday. With the higher wages being paid, pool management expectations need to be kept very high. Council agreed to monitor and talk to the manager if needed.

Geislinger reported the sewer line at the softball park had to be jetted out the past couple years. He thinks the pipe has separated and that sand is accumulating causing it to plug. Geislinger recommended waiting until fall to dig it up unless a major problem occurs.

Geislinger noted a tree at McCarthy Park near the bandstand should be removed as it's a safety issue. Council agreed to have Geislinger get a few quotes.

Council noted the new public works assistant should get his pool operator's license. Geislinger noted he needs to renew his as well. There is a 2-day course in Plymouth in July. Fee is \$350. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY CARLSON FOR GEISLINGER TO ATTEND THE POOL OPERATOR RECERTIFICATION CLASS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger noted Kramer Electric suggested moving the overhead electric from the leaning pole at McCarthy Park to underground but he feels the pole should be straightened and run conduit for Christmas lights and the security light.

Wirz noted that CP Rail has dug up an area in McCarthy Park while working on the tracks. Wirz noted the Fire Department would take care of restoration.

Geislinger noted repairs are needed for the sprinkler for the flower bed at McCarthy Park. Geislinger reported he has found out-of-city residents bringing brush to the city's brush site. This is for city residents only and it is posted on the sign at the entrance. The site cannot accommodate non-residents' brush as it just isn't big enough. He has locked the gate and city residents will need to make an appointment to get in.

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

Next regular meeting is Thursday, July 14th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan
Mayor