

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

Mayor Rowan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Stephanie Eder, Sue Unterberger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brenda Carlson

OTHERS: RuthAnne Cupps, Deputy Reggie Sandstrom, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen Krone, City Clerk-Treasurer Deb Kramer

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

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY EDER. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda: February 12 regular meeting minutes, February Financial Report, Resolution 2026-11 Accepting Donations, ambulance service resignations, delinquent water bills for shut off, revised chicken permit form, staff PTO request.

Public Forum – RuthAnne Cupps petitioned the council for a dedicated handicap parking spot on the city street outside Area Homes. This would be for a second vehicle, as her first vehicle is using the allotted space in the Area Homes parking area. Council directed staff to research.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE 2026 AMBULANCE SERVICE ROSTER, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY EDER TO APPROVE THE 2026 AMBULANCE SERVICE OFFICERS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Sandstrom presented the February sheriff's report.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY EDER. MOTION CARRIED.

Staff informed council about the applications received for pool employees. Staff will coordinate interviews for the management position with Unterberger and Carlson. Erin Geislinger should be able to come back and do a Lifeguard training course for those needing certification. The city can look at bringing in an instructor that they have used before for doing a WSI training course.

Clerk received quotes from two companies for the portable restrooms at the parks. The city has been using Nelson Sanitation for the last two years, and their quote was lower again for 2026. Council directed that going forward, city staff can approve the better quote rather than bringing to council for approval.

MOTION BY EDER TO CONTRACT WITH NELSON SANITATION FOR 2026, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk informed council that the engineer has submitted an application to get on MPCA's Project Priority List for two projects. The first is for the water and sewer improvement work in the 4th Street and Cedar Avenue area that the city attempted getting an SCDP grant for. The second application is for lead service line replacement work to determine materials.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF KEEK'S CONSUMPTION & DISPLAY PERMIT, SECONDED BY EDER. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Geislinger informed the council that the city received some grant money for work at the reservoir. To move forward, Geislinger would like to have the area surveyed. Bolton & Menk would be available to do the surveying, and City Engineer Louwagie thought that it could be done for an approximate cost of \$2,000.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE BOLTON & MENK PERFORMING A SURVEY AT THE RESERVOIR, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Unterberger asked if anyone knew when the Santa and reindeer would be removed from McCarthy Park. Rowan stated that they are still frozen in the ground, but will be removed as soon as possible.

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

Next regular meeting is Thursday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Sarah Jacobsen Krone, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan, Mayor