

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

Mayor Eder called the emergency meeting to order at 3 p.m. via teleconference.

Present by roll call vote: Mayor Frank Eder, Councilor Tootz Tschumperlin, Councilor Marc Wirz, Councilor Jason Laumer, Councilor Sue Unterberger

Also present were Clerk Deb Kramer, Assistant Clerk Jeanette Neidhardt and Public Works Director Steve Geislinger.

Mayor Eder declared a local emergency Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 3:20 p.m. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This emergency is good for 3 days. Council must act to extend the emergency.

Mayor Eder also issued a declaration stating holding in-person meetings is not practical or prudent and all city meetings are to be held by electronic means. Until further notice, or until such time the State of Minnesota determines to no longer be in a state of emergency, all meetings of city commissions governed by MN Statute 13D shall be conducted by telephone or other electronic means.

The purpose of the emergency meeting is to extend the local emergency, advise how city staff should operate and how upcoming meetings will be handled during the Stay at Home order issued by Governor Walz and determine how to hold the Annual Board of Review meeting scheduled for April 9th.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2020-9, RESOLUTION ENACTED PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 12.29 EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF A MAYOR-DECLARED LOCAL EMERGENCY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. COUNCILORS LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN AND UNTERBERGER VOTING "YES". MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council discussed staff hours. Unterberger asked if layoffs should be considered so employees could collect unemployment. Mayor Eder felt staff should continue to be paid regular wages and not use PTO. Tschumperlin agreed staff shouldn't have to take PTO. Public Works started alternating the week of March 16th and used PTO. Council advised staff to work out schedules amongst themselves and agreed to continue paying staff their regular hours for the time being. Council agreed this should be made retroactive to March 16th for Public Works who has used PTO. If this situation becomes long term then council will address and may need to do something else.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO KEEP PAYING PUBLIC WORKS UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. COUNCILORS LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN AND UNTERBERGER VOTING "YES". MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council advised for office staff to split up the hours and do regular business hours.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO PAY OFFICE STAFF AT REGULAR HOURS AND SCHEDULE BETWEEN THEM, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. COUNCILORS LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, AND UNTERBERGER VOTING "YES". MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council agreed to hold the annual local board of appeals and equalization meeting as scheduled April 9th at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Village Hall instead of City Hall and limited to one person at a time and everyone practicing social distancing.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO HOLD THE LOCAL BOARD OF APPEALS AND EQUALIZATION MEETING ON APRIL 9TH AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SECONDED BY WIRZ. COUNCILORS LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN AND UNTERBERGER VOTING "YES". MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council agreed to hold the April 9th council meeting at the Village Hall as well. This will be limited to 10 people.

Council agreed to cancel the April 1st planning commission meeting.

COUNCILOR LAUMER AMENDED HIS PRIOR MOTION TO INCLUDE PAYING PUBLIC WORKS WITHOUT HAVING TO USE PTO GOING BACK TO MARCH 16TH, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. COUNCILORS LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, AND UNTERBERGER VOTING "YES". MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council agreed to let the EDA board decide if they will hold their April meeting, which at this time, does not fall in the period of the Stay at Home order.

Laumer asked how utilities were being handled. Kramer reported shutoffs have been suspended and no late penalties were added to the bills calculated today.

Geislinger reported that he has exchanged keys with the City of Eden Valley to monitor water and sewer so that can cover for each other if the need arises.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. COUNCILORS LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN AND UNTERBERGER VOTING "YES". MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder
Mayor