

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020
7 P.M.

Mayor Eder called the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m. via teleconference due to the COVID-19 crisis.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Clerk Kramer was present at City Hall. Public Works Director Steve Geislinger was present via phone.

Mayor Eder added a local business resolution to the agenda for discussion.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes from the April 9th Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting, April 9 regular meeting and April financial report.

Public Forum- none

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE AMBULANCE BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY WIRZ. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Delinquent water bills were discussed. Kramer noted there was about \$2,000 outstanding at this time. 3 accounts are 2 or more periods past due. Suspension of shutoffs and late fees was noted in the spring newsletter. Council advised to send reminder letters to the accounts that are 2 or more periods past due.

City Hall / Staff Hours – Wirz felt to continue as is until the June meeting. Staff reported things are going well.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO EXTEND THE MODIFIED SCHEDULE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer reported there was a conflict between the Chicken Permit application and the ordinance. The ordinance states the property must be owned by the applicant; however, the application states that if the applicant is not the owner of the property that a notarized statement from the property owner allowing for the keeping of chickens must be submitted with the application. Council agreed it should be updated to match the ordinance.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO AMEND THE CHICKEN PERMIT APPLICATION TO REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO OWN THE PROPERTY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Bolton and Menk sent a memo to the city regarding a potential infrastructure bill at the federal level to boost the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic. Bolton and Menk is suggesting to get projects prepared for this potential funding. The last time such funding was passed it was awarded to projects that were shovel-ready and could serve the goals of the legislation, immediately create jobs and build the country's infrastructure. As of today, there has been no further development on the issue. Geislinger noted there is some work that needs to be done at the wastewater treatment pond site and also at the water tower. He noted these should probably be done sooner than later. Geislinger noted replacing the piping at the reservoir could be something to go on the list for potential funding. This is the original piping at the reservoir. Another project could be the sanitary sewer force main. Although the pipe looks good, the bolts on the fittings are loosening due to vibration from the pumps kicking in. Submersible pumps at the main lift station would be another project to add to the list. Laumer felt Geislinger should get quotes on the pond issue and get done. Wirz felt the city should get costs on the lift station and reservoir work even if funding doesn't come through so the city knows for future planning. Geislinger noted a booster pump for Glenshire Estates would be another project to put on a list. Council advised Geislinger to get some quotes for shovel-ready projects.

KUE Contractors has submitted an updated quote for the Village Hall steel fire escape. The total quote is \$25,570. This includes material, footings, door material and labor and KUE's fee.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM KUE CONTRACTORS FOR THE FIRE ESCAPE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission update – Hilltop Health Care Center will be adding 6 rooms on to the Nursing Home. The old F & F building owners want to rebuild the portion of the building that was demolished from the tornado. To be able to rebuild in the same footprint had to be done within 12 months of the destruction so they may need to apply for a variance. There are also some blight issues with the property that need to be addressed. Margee Theis would like to work with the city and developers on the location of the entrance to the new 20-unit apartment building off Western Avenue North.

EDA update – Dave Molitor is the new administrator at Hilltop Health Care Center and has applied to serve on the EDA board. The board made recommendation to appoint at their meeting May meeting.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPOINT DAVE MOLITOR TO THE EDA BOARD, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

The EDA board has designated some funds for emergency relief loans for local businesses in the city that have been affected by the COVID-19 health pandemic. Council reviewed the application. The maximum loan would be \$5,000 and it's first-come, first serve. The maximum term would not exceed 5 years. Interest rate would be the current prime rate. Interest would be deferred for 6 months and payments would begin 6 months after the loan is approved. Payments will be set up on direct deposit to the city's account. A promissory note and personal guaranty will be required. All applications would be reviewed by the EDA board for eligibility.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE THE LOAN FUND APPLICATION, SECONDED BY WIRZ. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Gordies Bar asked if the city would consider a refund on liquor license fees due to the bars being shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic. The city attorney's opinion was that the city could make a one-time across-the-board decrease on the 2020 licenses due to the Governor's order and the pandemic. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO MAKE A 25% REDUCTION ACROSS-THE-BOARD ON ALL ON-SALE LICENSES, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Mike Lease from the Red Goat Bar & Grill sent a resolution that was adopted by the City of Oak Grove regarding the Governor's Stay-at-home order and temporary closure of bars and restaurants and asked if council would consider it. Wirz noted the city has no authority to bypass the Governor's orders. Council felt the city would be asking for trouble supporting this resolution. No action was taken.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE ON-SALE, OFF-SALE AND SPECIAL SUNDAY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSES TO BUD'S BAR, GORDIES BAR AND RED GOAT BAR & GRILL; CLUB ON-SALE AND SPECIAL SUNDAY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSES TO WATKINS LEGION CLUB ROOM; OFF-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE TO WATKINS LIQUOR WAREHOUSE; 3.2 ON-SALE, WINE ON-SALE, SPECIAL SUNDAY ON-SALE AND STRONG BEER LIQUOR LICENSES TO KEEKS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE ELECTION JUDGE APPLICATION, SECONDED BY LAUMER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

The city received an invoice from CP Rail for rent of the park/parking lot for the period of 5/1/2020 – 4/30/2021. The amount is \$1,144.27. The city attorney's opinion was that payment of the lease would not adopt new terms that are not specifically signed off on and he didn't see any problem paying according to the old lease.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO PAY THE CP RAIL INVOICE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Council approved to plant flowers at McCarthy Park as done in the past.

Kramer noted the city will need to proceed with the tax abatement process for the 20-unit apartment project. A public hearing will be required. Kramer will contact Mary Ippel to get the process started.

Reminder of the Wellhead Protection Plan, Part 2 Amendment public hearing on June 3rd at 7 p.m. at Eden Valley. This may be held by electronic means rather than in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kramer will send details closer to the date.

Kramer noted she was going to send letters to pool staff about not opening this season but held off if there may be work for some to do there. Council agreed it's widely known that it is closed for the

season now. Laumer will talk to the manager to see what her thoughts are about anything staff could do there this summer while it's shut down.

EV-W Class of 2020 will be having a graduation parade May 21st since there cannot be a traditional commencement program. The parade will start at the Watkins Elementary building and then head to Eden Valley on Meeker-Stearns Street and end at the Starlite Drive-In Theatre in Litchfield.

Kramer noted the city received a payment from the CARES ACT stimulus funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount was \$5,703.62 and is for the ambulance service for additional PPE, etc. related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenses will need to be documented.

Council agreed not to place any mini-biffs at the parks this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Geislinger noted the lift station is operating on one pump. Parts for the other pump are out until June. Eden Valley is handling weekend operations of the joint water treatment during this time. Laumer thanked public works for filling in the potholes. Mayor Eder asked about Kraut N' Wurst. Wirz noted the fire department has tabled it for the moment. There probably won't be a parade. If things improve a lot maybe they would do a scaled-down version but it's probably not going to happen this year. The raffles will still take place. Tschumperlin noted that some of the Shriner units don't really want to attend the parade because a lot of them are in the vulnerable age group for the coronavirus.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: LAUMER, WIRZ, TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER. NAYS: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 11th at 7 p.m. This meeting will be held via teleconference.

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

Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder
Mayor