

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

Mayor Rowan called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Wirz

Others: Derek Becker, Steve Geislinger, Kent Louwagie, Shawny Kramer, Jody Bauer, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone, Clerk Deb Kramer

Mayor Rowan added Comprehensive Plan to the agenda.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION, SECONDED BY CARLSON.
MOTION CARRIED.

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of April 11th meeting, April financial report, Resolution No. 2024-14, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off, February 9, 2023 joint water board meeting minutes and 2024 financial report.

Public Forum – none.

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

RBD, LLC, owners of Fire Trak and the single-family home at 160 First Street, are requesting to split off the east 50' from the residential property and combine with Fire Trak's property for future loading dock space. Truck drivers have difficulty turning into the loading dock now. They would not build anything on the 50', they just want it for extra space for the drivers. They plan to sell the home. The Planning Commission has reviewed the application to rezone the 50' piece from R-1 Residential to M-1 Industrial and recommended the rezoning to the council. The commission has also recommended to combine the properties.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-15, RESOLUTION APPROVING PROPERTY COMBINATION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-4, ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WATKINS ZONING MAP, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

City engineer Kent Louwagie updated council on the lift station project. The delivery date on the generator has been pushed back until mid-August. As a result, the contractor is unable to meet the original completion date and requested a time extension. Change Order #2, describing the revised completion dates, was presented to council. The contractor has requested to extend the substantial completion from August 15, 2024 to November 1, 2024 and a final payment date of December 6, 2024. Kent noted there will not be a lot of activity on the project until the generator arrives.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #2, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

340 4th St North nuisance ordinance violation – the 30 days to clean up has expired. Some things have been removed but most of the back yard remains the same. More wood has been brought in. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NOTICE OF HEARING, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ACCEPT THE SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POOL STAFF: ANNA KRAMER, KAMYRN MATHIES AND BRAYDEN BECKER, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

All lifeguards have to update to American Red Cross's new standard by 12/31. If not, their certificates will expire. Council agreed the city would cover the expense of the instructor for the update. The update is scheduled for May 28th, after the WSI refresher.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-5, ORDINANCE AMENDING ZONING MAP, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-6, ORDINANCE AMENDING 2024 FEE SCHEDULE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE IRRIGATION AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL LANDWEHR AND KUECHLE BROS., SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE IRRIGATION AGREEMENT WITH DALE AND MARY LOU RAUSCH CONTINGENT ON RAUSCH'S APPROVAL, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission update – Council reviewed some proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission. A public hearing will be held June 5th at 7 p.m. for the proposed amendments as well as rezoning of the skating rink property from R-1 to B-1. LP Building Solutions has applied for a variance from the front yard setback for an office addition.

Off-street parking at 180 Western Avenue South was discussed. There is a curb cut off Western Avenue where they could possibly make a concrete parking area. Another option might be to make a parking area off 2nd Street South.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER 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; 3.2 ON-SALE, WINE ON-SALE, SPECIAL SUNDAY ON-SALE AND STRONG BEER LIQUOR LICENSES TO KEEKS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The ambulance service will be going to the schools for EMS week. In the past the service has given each Kindergarten student a free one-day swim pass. The service then pays the city for all passes turned in at the end of the season at a reduced price, which has been \$2 each in the past. The service is requesting 123 passes at the same price.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE 123 SWIM PASSES @ \$2 EACH, SECONDED BY CARLSON.
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE SPONSORING A BLACK AND WHITE AD FOR \$100 IN THE REGION 15C AMATEUR BASEBALL TOURNEY PROGRAM, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Updating the city's land use plan/comprehensive plan was discussed at the work session meeting. Staff will check to see if there are any grant opportunities available to help with the cost of this before soliciting proposals. Council tabled until the June meeting.

Council approved to pay staff for drive time when attending conferences and meetings that extend beyond the normal work hours.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger reported the sewer at 430 Central Avenue North plugged. The owner elected to replace the service line as it was old clay pipe. Geislinger noted they had to remove 12' of curb and one 5-foot concrete panel from the driveway during the repair. When the 2007 project was done, this service wasn't done properly so it cost the homeowner a lot of extra time to repair. The homeowner requested the city pay for the repair of the curb and driveway panel. Council discussed and agreed to cover the expense not to exceed \$2,000.00.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO PAY TO REPAIR THE CURB AND ONE PANEL UP TO \$2,000.00, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Next regular meeting is Thursday, June 13th at 7 p.m.

Adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan
Mayor