

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Marc Wirz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

One vacancy exists.

Others: Duane Peterson, Jeff Hilsgen, Kent Louwagie, Deputy Sandstrom, Deputy Clerk Sarah Krone, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Clerk Deb Kramer

Mayor Rowan added New Ambulance to the agenda.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ADDITION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were October 13th regular meeting minutes, October financial report, Resolution No. 2022-31, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

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

Ambulance Chief Jeff Hilsgen asked for approval to start looking for a new ambulance. It takes about 2 years to build one and the current one is 3 years old now. Jeff figured a new one would be about \$300,000.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE STARTING THE BID PROCESS FOR A NEW AMBULANCE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

City engineer Kent Louwagie noted a pressure test was done on the forcemain and the results indicate it should last for another 5 to 10 years. The project could be split into 2 phases. Phase 1 would replace the lift station and phase 2 would replace the forcemain. Kent asked the council to authorize design of the lift station as phase 1.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO PROCEED WITH DESIGN OF PHASE 1, LIFT STATION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed tax impact scenarios for a bond issuance for the lift station improvements. The scenarios did not include using any Sewer Fund revenue to pay the debt service.

Watkins Baseball Association. Council discussed the joint powers agreement for the ball park complex. It currently states any improvements over \$5,000 shall need prior approval of the council. Council agreed to increase this to \$10,000 and anything over \$10,000 needs two quotes. The agreement will be updated for the December meeting.

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

Last month council approved an increase to fire department officers' wages. The townships read about the increase in the local paper and were not happy about the decision. They felt this should have been discussed at the annual fire protection meeting, not at a city council meeting.

Council reviewed the 2023-2024 law enforcement contract with Meeker County. The proposed increase is 4.5% each year. The 2023 rate will be \$51.75/hour and 2024 will be \$54/hour.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-32, RESOLUTION DECLARING DESIGNATED POLL LOCATION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A special meeting will be held November 17th at 7 p.m. to canvas election results and a public hearing at 7:10 p.m. for ordinance amendments.

Kramer noted 2 frames were ordered for maps at City Hall.

Geislinger noted parking restrictions started November 1st. He also noted the sweeper is down. Repairs are expected to run \$5,000 to \$8,000.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE SWEEPER REPAIRS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Rowan noted the Lions Club would like to decorate McCarthy Park for Christmas and show a movie there. Council approved.

Mayor Rowan noted he attended a presentation for a Meeker County business opportunity. Nature Energy is looking for 25 to 40 acres. Rowan would like to contact the business and see if they could attend a meeting. Council approved.

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

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

Adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan, Mayor