

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Scott Brossard, Ben Aho, Deputy Ernie Defries, David Krueger, Steve Geislinger, Clerk Deb Kramer

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of the October 8, 2015 public hearing and regular meeting, October financial report, Resolution #2015-41- Resolution Accepting Donations, Resolution #2015-42- Transfer of Funds, delinquent water bills.

Public Forum-Scott Brossard of 110 4<sup>th</sup> Street North received a letter from the city advising him there was going to be a hearing at tonight's meeting regarding his violation of the Nuisance Ordinance and not meeting the requirements agreed upon at the September council meeting. Wirz noted the vehicles that were to be moved back hadn't been taken care of as of the October meeting therefore another letter was sent. Scott noted he wasn't aware there was a time frame and he has no help. Mayor Eder noted he did go by last week and saw some cars had been moved. Scott noted the motor home has current license on it but can't move to the back due to an overhead power line. He will need to store it behind the garage for the winter and plans to get rid of it next summer. Scott noted he didn't realize he had to take care of things that quickly. He has collector plates or current license on everything. Council approved to allow moving the motor home behind the garage for the winter.

Ben Aho reported Mike Knisley and Jen Brovold are taking EMT class. Mike is on the Fire Department and took the First Responder Course some time ago along with two other Fire Department members as part of the variance allowing them to drive the ambulance.

Council reviewed the ambulance service bills.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Ben reported that Tanya Cronen is a new member of the service and requested approval of her appointment to the service.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF TANYA CRONEN TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF JEN BROVOLD TO THE AMBULANCE SERVICE, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

There are currently 21 members on the service.

Council reviewed the Meeker County Sheriff monthly report.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE REPORT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeker County EDA Director David Krueger explained the purpose of the housing study. He noted all the larger cities in the county have come on board. He requested a contribution from the cities of \$1 per capita to help pay for the study. Cost of the study would be \$30,000.00. He has secured \$4,000 in grants to help defray the costs. David noted the study would be good for 10-12 years and would be multi-purpose. It would help private investors determine what type of housing is needed. It would help the city with determining what kind of infrastructure is needed and help with zoning. It can also be used for Small Cities Development Grant opportunities. David noted that Paynesville did a study which they have on their website. The study would look at demographics, population, income levels, work patterns, shopping trends and current housing stock. There would be interviews with local realtors, public health officials, residents and local employers. Dave noted banks would want to see this information before lending funds for any project.

No action was taken as Council wants to review Paynesville's study.

City Engineer Kent Louwagie did not attend the meeting as there were no pay requests ready for council action.

Council reviewed the CenterPoint Energy Gas Franchise Ordinance #2015-5. The city's attorney has been negotiating with CenterPoint Energy over the past several months and felt the ordinance put forth was generally in line with the standard for cities of similar size and location.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2015-5, CENTERPOINT ENERGY GAS FRANCHISE ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The city does not have a franchise fee in place with CenterPoint Energy.

Nothing has been done with the property at 131 Stearns Avenue North. The foundation is still in the ground and the sewer has not been disconnected yet. Council advised staff to send a letter to both Drontle Properties and Jesse Mathies ordering to remove everything and disconnect the sewer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO SEND NOTICE TO DRONTLE PROPERTIES AND JESSE MATHIES GIVING A TEN-DAY DEADLINE TO GET A CONTRACTOR LINED UP TO CLEAN UP THE PROPERTY AND TO BRING PROOF TO CITY HALL OF HIRED CONTRACTOR, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Carlson noted she felt property at 230 Central Avenue South was in compliance. Property at 241 Western Avenue South has a deadline of November 16, 2015.

The city attorney has advised council of the process to move forward with action on vacant property at 151 First Street.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO PROCEED TO NEXT STEPS IN REGARD TO FOLLOWING STATUTORY PROCEDURES ON FILE #1400-153, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed the issue of property owners parking on their lawns. Per the Zoning Ordinance, parking of vehicles is only allowed on a driveway. Carlson will contact the resident on Veterans Drive.

A sign has been put up at the brush site advising the site is for city residents only and only grass clippings and leaves are allowed to be dumped. Anyone dumping leaves/grass must empty their bags/containers and take with them. MPCA was out after a complaint was filed and a letter will be sent. Public Works has removed some junk from the area as well.

The city received a request from Swift County asking for support, by way of resolution, for the state to reopen the Appleton prison rather than building a new facility.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-43, RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ALLOW THE LIONS CLUB TO RETAIN RENTAL FEES FOR THE WARMING HOUSE FACILITY, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council approved that a pet license would not be needed for a foster animal.

Planning Commission update- The Board of Adjustments will be holding a public hearing and meeting for Barrier Technology's variance application on November 16, 2015. Barrier is expanding their product line and are need of more storage. They are requesting a variance from the 75' setback line.

Structures being moved in without a permit were discussed. Council advised even if the structure is moved out and then a permit applied for, the \$250 penalty must be enforced.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE AN EMPLOYEE'S PAID TIME OFF REQUEST, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO CLOSE CITY HALL OFFICE NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> AND DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Geislinger noted the lawn mower is due for a trade-in in 2016. The trade-in value has been based on the number of hours on the mower. Cost should be available at the next meeting. The north pump at the lift station went out on Sunday. The south pump was leaking but they have temporarily fixed it so it is running. The north one cannot be used at all. Cost to repair the south pump is approximately

\$8,000 for parts and \$2,000 for the north pump. W.W. Goetsch has suggested the city switch to submersible pumps. Steve noted what is there now needs to be fixed and the city needs to start setting aside for replacement. The lift stations were cleaned and they found fat but no sand, which is what Goetsch thought was causing a lot of wear and tear on the pumps. Council advised to get costs on submersible pumps. The upstairs exterior door at the Village Hall is in bad shape. Faber Building is preparing a quote for replacement. Kramer Electric has been contacted about repairing the electrical at the Village Hall.

Next regular meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER.  
MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder  
Mayor