

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Laumer

Other: Bruce Geislinger, Eric Denny, Lynn Hokanson, Bonnie Holthaus, Jody Bauer, Heidi Donnay, Duane Peterson, Steve Geislinger

Mayor Eder added Resolutions 2019-28 and 2019-29 to the agenda.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes from October 10 regular meeting and October 29 special meeting, October financial report, Resolution #2019-26, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – none

There was an omission in the minutes from the September 12 meeting that were approved last month. A corrected copy was presented.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12TH, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Lynn Hokanson was present regarding a letter he received from the city about an accessory structure that was built without a permit. The letter stated that he must either submit an application for a land use permit and pay the \$250 penalty fee or remove the structure. Hokanson added a 24.75 sq. ft. addition to the back of his garage. He wasn't aware he needed a permit and apologized. He noted he was happy to pay for the permit and requested council to waive the fee or reduce it. Hokanson noted generally a penalty is two times the fee. Wirz noted the same penalty was imposed on at least two others this year at that rate. Wirz noted it has been discussed that the penalty might be too much. Hokanson asked what the solution was. Wirz noted it's being discussed. Unterberger didn't think the city could make an exception when it didn't for the others. Hokanson asked if the council was going to force him to pay the penalty. He asked the council if they were going to enforce some ordinances but not all of them. Wirz noted again the council already imposed the fine on two others and their hands are tied as that is what is set out in the ordinance. Hokanson thought anything under 120 sq. ft. didn't

require a permit. Hokanson noted parking violations on Central Avenue weren't being cited, but the council was going to enforce this penalty on him. Wirz noted none of the council feels good about this. Hokanson noted the fee schedule was being reviewed and an exception could be made. No action was taken by the council.

Bruce Geislinger requested approval for the Baseball Association to contribute \$20,000 to the Baseball Park Building & Maintenance Fund to do improvements at the baseball field.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE WORK AT THE BASEBALL FIELD, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER.
MOTION CARRIED.

Eric Denny with Arvig stated Arvig will be moving to a streaming service called WiFi TV in 2020 and shutting off its cable service. Right now, all city buildings are not being charged for cable TV per the franchise agreement. Arvig could convert all 3 TV locations to WiFi TV and the city would continue to get TV at no charge. The install would be at no charge with a two-year commitment. Fox Sports channels and Big 10 Network would cost extra if any buildings want them. Arvig must charge for the sports channels on all business accounts. Eric noted once the streaming service is up and running, the cable TV franchise agreement may not be valid any more. Eric also noted that Arvig is preparing to install fiber internet. They are offering installation at no charge with a two-year commitment. There would be a slight increase in the monthly bill. They will be offering the same thing to all the businesses in town. Arvig will be bringing fiber internet to all the rural areas as well. Watkins and Kimball have been moved up on the schedule to 2020.

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

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2019-4, ORDINANCE AMENDING WATKINS CITY CODE, CHAPTER 95: VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-27, RESOLUTION APPROVING PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-4 BY TITLE AND SUMMARY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

CP Railway is not interested in selling the property where McCarthy Park and the parking lot are located. Wirz noted he had the pollution insurance policy reviewed by someone who used to work in the industry and was told the city would have to keep the policy in place even after the lease ended. Discussion followed on possible sites that could be used for the park and annual Kraut N' Wurst day. St. Anthony Parish will be contacted to see if they are interested in selling any property.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO TABLE THE CP RAIL PROPERTY DISCUSSION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN.
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeker County EDA and Housing Task Force contacted the city about assistance on housing needs. Council noted they are interested in this, but since the city is working on some housing they would like to wait until spring.

Planning Commission update – Eder noted a prospective buyer asked about putting a driveway in at 131 Meeker Avenue South. The board approved as long as it would be on the south side of the house rather than the front.

261 Central Avenue South – Faber Building quoted \$2,347.57 for materials and labor for soffit/fascia install on the upper house roof. The attorney did speak with the owner and he indicated this quote was acceptable. The attorney did recommend the city authorize the guarantee for the work, but the homeowner said it wouldn't be necessary. Council discussed requiring a down payment of half down as part of the guarantee. An agreement would be needed between the city and homeowner.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO GUARANTEE THE SOFFIT WORK ON THE CONDITION THAT THE HOMEOWNER PUTS ½ DOWN BEFORE REPAIRS START, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

There was one application received from Duane Peterson for the Board of Adjustments vacancy.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPOINT DUANE PETERSON TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is increasing the service connection fee in 2020 from \$6.36 to \$9.72. The revenue from this fee is used to fund activities of MDH's Drinking Water Protection Program related to maintaining compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and protecting the health of all Minnesotans. Currently the city adds this fee to the June billing. Council agreed to continue doing it the same.

2020 Fee Schedule – fees for aerobics and lap swim are not included. Kramer suggested discussing this with the pool manager before the season starts next year to determine if they will continue. The 2020 Fee Schedule will be set at the December meeting.

Workforce Housing grant application was discussed. Kramer asked council how it wanted to proceed with the tax abatement. In the past a financial consultant was used, along with the necessary legal consultants and fees for both could run approximately \$6,000 to \$8,000. The city's policy states these fees are the developer's costs. There is a minimum match that must be met of \$1 for every \$2 of grant funds requested. Kramer is checking with MN Housing to see if these fees would count toward the match. A public hearing must be held for the tax abatement process. A ten-day published notice is required. This could be held before the December 12th meeting and then acted on at the council meeting. Council called for the public hearing on the tax abatement to be held Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. The project also needs a name and address assigned to the site. Western View or Sunset View were suggested for the project name or whatever council would like. The address should be in 400 block range and the street is Western Circle.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ASSIGN AN ADDRESS OF 400 WESTERN CIRCLE FOR WESTERN VIEW APARTMENTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The Watkins Fire Relief Association requested a 3.2 malt liquor license for an event at Mies Outland on November 15th.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE 3.2 LICENSE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

St. Anthony Parish requested a temporary on-sale liquor license for a fundraiser event on February 8, 2020.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR ST. ANTHONY PARISH, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-28, RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-29, RESOLUTION DECLARING DESIGNATED POLL LOCATION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger presented a quote from Faber Building for a new door at Village Hall. Faber's quoted \$6,500 for a 36" door. This can be upgraded to a 42" door for an additional \$500. The 42" door would take about 5 to 6 weeks to get. This would be a commercial aluminum door with a sidelight. The price includes removal of the old doors.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO REPLACE WITH THE 42" DOOR, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger noted there were some complaints on the water having a tint to it. It appears these were isolated incidents.

Unterberger asked about the emergency exit at the Village Hall. Geislinger noted he is still trying to get it done.

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

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 12th. Public hearing will be at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder
Mayor