

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Jody Bauer, Shawny Kramer, Deputy Sandstrom, Steve Geislinger, Duane Peterson, Stephanie Eder, Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone, Clerk Deb Kramer

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were October 10th meeting minutes, October financial report, Resolution No. 2024-30, Resolution Accepting Donations, and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public forum – none.

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

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31, RESOLUTION TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE ABSTRACT OF VOTES CAST IN THE CITY OF WATKINS FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-32, RESOLUTION DECLARING 2024 ELECTION RESULTS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Rowan opened the hearing for the Nuisance Ordinance violation at 130 Cedar Avenue North. The property owner was notified of the hearing date and time but was not present.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO CLOSE THE HEARING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Abating the nuisance of the overgrown grass, weeds and brush was discussed. Geislinger noted he had a couple contacts to check with to clean up the property.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO DIRECT CITY STAFF TO CONTACT CONTRACTOR TO ABATE WITH FASTEST TIMELINE TO TAKE CARE OF [RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33], SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

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

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT WITH MEEKER COUNTY, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Council agreed to allow the Chamber spruce pots to be out on the sidewalks until January 13th.

Council reviewed the fee schedule for 2025. Council proposed increases to swimming lessons fees, private lessons, private pool parties, public works staff time, pool fills, water rates, and sewer rates. Council will act on the final schedule in December.

Council reviewed the draft cannabis ordinance. The planning commission reviewed the ordinance at its meeting last week. Deputy Clerk Jacobsen-Krone noted that after reviewing other retail and zoning ordinances it seemed the clean way was to add a new chapter in the adult use business chapter of the city code. This draft would regulate cannabis uses as a use requiring a conditional use permit in the M-1 Industrial District. The draft includes regulation of lower potency hemp edibles as well. Lower potency hemp edibles are already legal in MN and the city doesn't currently regulate it. Discussion followed. The city can charge a registration fee of \$500 for the first year, which includes the first renewal. Thereafter it can charge \$1,000. Meeker County Public Health will do age compliance checks for the city. Details on that will be forthcoming. Council agreed to remove all sections in the draft regarding regulation of the lower potency hemp edibles. The planning commission will hold a public hearing on December 4th for the proposed amendment to the M-1 District of the Zoning Ordinance. Council could then act on the ordinance at its December 12th meeting.

Council called for a special meeting to be held Tuesday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Purpose will be a workshop with the city attorney to work on regulations of small box discount stores. December 5th at 7 p.m. will be an alternate date.

Carlson asked the council's opinion of the small box discount stores in the city. The consensus was this type of use was not wanted in the city.

The city engineer submitted a project update memo on the lift station project. The lift station is completed, tested and operating. The standby generator is installed and online. The old lift station has been demolished. The old generator has been salvaged for the city. Sanitary sewer, storm sewer and street reconstruction on Central Avenue is complete. The site grading, dormant seeding and site stabilization has since been completed. A punch list and cleanup will occur over the next few weeks.

The engineers have recommended payment of pay request #7 in the amount of \$169,383.32 to Geislinger and Sons for the lift station project

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE PAY REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$169,383.32 TO GEISLINGER AND SONS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The Watkins Lions Club requested a temporary on-sale liquor license for a puzzle event at the Village Hall January 11th.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR JANUARY 11TH EVENT, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council approved to purchase a PDF of the city code for the website. Cost is \$75.

Council approved for the deputy clerk to attend the MCFOA conference, with hotel stay, in Brooklyn Center in March.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger noted he'd like to check into a new camera for inspecting pipes. This would be a shared cost with Eden Valley. Council approved to have a sales representative come out to demonstrate the product to staff.

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

Next regular meeting is December 12th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan, Mayor