

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

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 arrived at 7:08 p.m.

ABSENT: None

Others: Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Sheriff Brian Cruze, Jody Bauer, Jeff Hilsgen and Clerk Deb Kramer.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were October 11, 2018 regular meeting minutes, October financial report, Resolution #2018-30, resolution accepting donations, October 18<sup>th</sup> joint water board meeting minutes and financial report and delinquent water bills for shutoff.

Public Forum- none

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

The ambulance service requested approval to purchase 25 safety vests at \$54 each.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE BUYING SAFETY VESTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Sheriff's Department report - Deputy Defries was unable to attend the meeting and no report was available.

Mayor Eder asked Sheriff Cruze about going back to 8-hour shifts. He noted he has had some concerns voiced to him. Sheriff Cruze noted that when the deputy is off Watkins still has coverage. The patrol deputy still has to come through on off days. Watkins should see a minimum of three coming through on off days. Mayor Eder noted an incident where the caller was given a response time of 40 minutes. Cruze noted they would send a deputy but dispatch should also be calling Stearns County to see if there is an officer in Kimball or a Stearns County deputy nearby to help out. Cruze noted that every call is documented when it comes in. Cruze also noted that Watkins should see a patrol car every day of the week. Cruze will take a look at the hours.

Sheriff Cruze reviewed the law enforcement contract to be renewed for 2019-2020. There is a 2.2% increase each year. This is basically keeping up with the deputy's wages. Per hour charge in 2019 shall be \$46.50 for an annual amount of \$96,720.00. Per hour charge in 2020 shall be \$47.50 for an annual

amount of \$98,800.00. The city will continue to be invoiced quarterly. The rest of the contract hasn't changed. Steve Geislinger asked about citations for winter parking violations. He suggested that habitual violators should continue at the level of fine they were at the previous season. It shouldn't start over again every winter. Cruze noted they have access to prior citations. They don't reset the clock. The fine structure is set by ordinance.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE 2019-2020 LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the abstract of votes cast for the city from the November 6<sup>th</sup> election. There were 467 registered voters at 7 a.m. There were 360 votes cast. The results are as follows:

MAYOR	Frank Eder	180
	Brenda Carlson	162
	Write-In	10
COUNCIL (4-year Term –2 Elected)		
	Kathleen (Tootz) Tschumperlin	263
	Jason Laumer	230
	Write-In	16

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-31, RESOLUTION DECLARING 2018 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the Fee Schedule for any changes to be made for 2019. The two-student fee for private lessons will be eliminated. A permit required for keeping of chickens will be added however there will be no fee charged.

230 Central Avenue South property- Carlson reported she looked at the property last week and it looked much better. Most of the junk is gone. Eder agreed it looked much better. Council advised Kramer to check with the city attorney to see if this becomes an issue again if the city can just move forward with a notice or does it have to start the process over again giving 30-day notice. Council also advised to ask the attorney if the resident can be charged expenses, i.e. attorney fees, staff time, etc. if it becomes an issue again. Council felt he met the requirements at this time and no further action was taken.

Council discussed amending the city code regarding parking regulations. The current ordinance states that no recreational vehicle, camper, travel trailer, camper top, boat, boat trailer or motor home shall be stored or parked for more than 48 hours on any city street. It also states that no automobile shall be parked for more than 72 hours in the same location on any city street or parking lot. After discussion, council agreed to allow parking of recreational vehicles, etc. for 48 hours, adding a provision that during such 48-hour period, such vehicle shall not be occupied as living quarters. Council also agreed to remove "in the same location" from the automobile parking regulations. Council will act on the amendment at the December meeting.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO KEEP CHICKENS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Any resident wishing to keep chickens will need to apply for a land use permit for the coop/run. Fee shall be \$25. This would be considered an accessory structure and will count towards the limit of 2 accessory structures on a property and all zoning requirements shall be met.

Public Works Director Geislinger reported that Xcel Energy no longer allows for anything to be attached to its distribution poles. This will affect the amount of Christmas decorations to be displayed. He also reported the lights to the welcome signs are installed. There may need to be some adjustments made to the lights as they shine towards the highway some. Next spring some landscaping options for around the signs will be reviewed. The SCADA system at the water treatment plant in Eden Valley has been installed. Geislinger also reported the landing for the emergency exit on the second floor of the Village Hall is in very bad shape. KUE Contractors has been contacted and will get some options for replacement. The gas range at the Village Hall has been cleaned up and the gas valve replaced. It is shut off when not in use. It will be monitored to see how it is working since it has been cleaned up. Geislinger didn't feel a need to replace it at this time.

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

Next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Geislinger noted they made one cover for the garbage cans. If council is satisfied with it, they would make 5 more. Council approved to proceed.

Wirz noted that Mies Outland will be discontinuing all John Deere equipment by the middle of next year. The city will get one more lawn mower through the trade-in program.

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

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder,  
Mayor