

APPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Brenda Carlson, Marc Wirz at 7:02 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others: Duane Peterson, Bill Lorentz, Deputy Sandstrom, Jody Bauer, Brad Rosenow, Clerk Deb Kramer

Mayor Rowan removed the Watkins Clippers from the Agenda and added the Lions Club to discuss rink improvements.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE CLIPPERS AND ADDITION OF THE LIONS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: October 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes, October financial report, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – Duane Peterson asked if there was any progress in cleaning up the mobile home park. Peterson noted there is garbage behind homes in the west end of the park. Kramer noted nothing was mentioned about garbage in the notice previously sent. Councilor Wirz arrived at this time. Kramer noted she sent a demolition permit to the owner on October 22<sup>nd</sup> by email and explained what was needed for the permit. There has been no response at this time. No deadline was given for crushing the homes. Council discussed getting a progress report from the owner. Discussion followed on citing for non-compliance and charging for legal fees, etc. Peterson noted the only thing done in the park was that the brush was removed from the home that was pictured in the paper, nothing else. Bill Lorentz noted the home across the street from him is vacant and has cats in it. Lorentz noted there are several homes that need to be removed and asked if the city could give a deadline, even if it is next spring. Wirz suggested sending a letter on the garbage and give 30 days and have the attorney look into the rest of it. Carlson questioned why the city should allow 30 days. Kramer noted the Blight Ordinance states 10 days to correct an issue.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO SEND A NOTICE CONFIRMING TO WHATEVER THE BLIGHT ORDINANCE STATES AND TIME ALLOWED BY ORDINANCE TO GET THE GARBAGE PICKED UP, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Rowan will get photos of the area for documentation. This matter will be followed up on at the December council meeting.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROACH THE CITY ATTORNEY ON CLEANING UP THE NON-CONFORMING TRAILERS IN THE MOBILE HOME PARK, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Ambulance bills – Jody Bauer noted the bill for Stryker for \$3,435 was for annual maintenance of the cots for a 3-year period. This does not include mileage.

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

Brad Rosenow, Watkins Lions Club, noted the club would like to fix up the rink. The club would like to put a cover over it and make it an arena-type facility but it would not be fully enclosed. They would possibly look at some kind of drop-down covers on the side. Brad asked about allowable building materials. It was noted the project would have to follow competitive bidding law.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO HAVE THE LIONS CLUB EXPLORE PUTTING A ROOF AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RINK, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Ordinance Final Drafts – Kramer noted council needs to determine proposed fees. A list of changes will be put together. This will be followed up on at the December meeting.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-31, RESOLUTION APPROVING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Request for vacation of drainage/utility easements – There was no public testimony to consider from the public hearing. All utilities were contacted and there were no concerns there. Council determined granting the vacation would benefit the public by allowing reasonable use of the land now and in the future and thereby increase the property value which will benefit the public.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-32, A RESOLUTION VACATING DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS UPON PETITION OF A MAJORITY OF ABUTTING LANDOWNERS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-33, RESOLUTION DESIGNATING POLLING PLACE, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed purchasing a certificate of deposit with the first half of the American Rescue Plan funds allocated to the city.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO PURCHASE A 15-MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT FOR \$50,421.81, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the new Community Enhancement Fund established by Mid-MN Development Commission. Fixing up the basketball courts behind City Hall and more AED's would be options.

Meeker County is hosting a series of Homeland Security Emergency Management Senior Officials trainings. The first is December 1<sup>st</sup> from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Court House. They are encouraging attendance of at least one senior official. Mayor Rowan noted he could attend.

Council reviewed a proposed fee schedule for 2022. New items to consider would be a fee for City Council public hearings, add "per employee" to Public Works staff time, removal of dog/cat license fee and tag replacement fee and removal of well permit fee. Wirz suggested increasing the Service Fee for Street Sweeper from \$90 to \$100. Council will review and consider all changes before final adoption.

Jeanette Neidhardt has submitted her resignation effective January 7, 2022. Council discussed filling the position possibly at 15-20 hours/week.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ACCEPT JEANETTE NEIDHARDT'S RESIGNATION, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council will review the job description for the position and discuss wages at the December meeting.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO PURCHASE A NEW CHRISTMAS TREE FOR CITY HALL AT A MAXIMUM OF \$200, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council approved a driveway expansion with material of either crushed concrete or Class 2 or 5.

Council agreed no permit would be needed for a temporary ramp at a residence.

Council approved to advertise an old cabinet and display case for sale. Minimum bid is \$1, with high bidder getting the items.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan  
Mayor