

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Jason Laumer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Wirz

Others: Jody Bauer, Jack Gruenes, Duane Peterson, Jason Klein, Steve Geislinger, Becky Berg, Bonnie Holthaus, Doug Green, Doug Ruhland

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes from September 12th regular meeting, September financial report, Resolution #2019-23, Resolution Accepting Donations, Joint water board minutes of March 28th and financial report, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public forum – none

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

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE 3RD QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY
TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE REVISED BY-LAWS FOR THE WATKINS AMBULANCE AND
RESCUE SQUAD SERVICE ASSOCIATION AND REVISED ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION
CARRIED.

The Ambulance Service requested approval to purchase a power load cot system. Lifting the cots is a safety issue for the ambulance service members. The power load system would allow it to be done automatically. The quote from Premier Specialty Vehicles consisted of a power load system that would be installed on the new ambulance, replacement of a stretcher that is getting bad and upgrade kits for two other stretchers so they can be used with the new power load system. The quote for all the items, including installation, is \$50,750.00. Jody Bauer noted someone is willing to donate \$5,000 towards the cost in memory of Kathy Peterson and Alvina Beckers.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE EQUIPMENT, SECONDED BY EDER.
MOTION CARRIED.

Becky Berg requested to continue to rent the Village Hall for her nutrition club at \$20 per time until she finds a different location. She would like to keep it open-ended so there isn't a need to come back to council meetings.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ALLOW BERG TO CONTINUE RENTING AND LEAVE OPEN-ENDED, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Doug Green with Baker Tilly noted the bond sale had to be delayed because the city couldn't get a credit rating done in time. This has been pushed out until October 29th. Doug felt this was a good thing as they aren't too many sales scheduled for that date and it would allow the city time to consider adopting some policies. Doug presented a Debt Service Management Policy and a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Doug reviewed the debt service policy.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO ADOPT THE DEBT SERVICE MANAGEMENT POLICY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Doug reviewed the CIP and noted it is just that – a plan. It can be changed, updated, etc. The plan goes out 5 years. The city does have a Capital Asset Policy that uses a threshold of \$5,000 so projects \$5,000 and above would be included in the CIP.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Jason Klein, Watkins Fire Department, requested approval for the department to purchase a thermal imaging camera and two truck chargers from Alex Air Apparatus. The cost is \$4,295 plus shipping. The department was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from CenterPoint Energy to go towards the purchase. They have other donated funds in the Equipment Fund that will be used for the balance. Jason noted there is a five-year bumper-to-bumper warranty on it.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF THE CAMERA, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ACCEPT THE MEEKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF 2 A.M. LIQUOR LICENSE FOR GORDIES BAR, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MnDOT announced availability of \$6.2 million in grants for local community projects. The funding would be in 2024. Council discussed applying for funds for a trail connecting Glenshire Estates to nearby the elementary school. A letter of intent (LOI) needs to be submitted by October 31st, along with a project budget, amount of funding being requested and some other information. Mayor Eder will try to follow up with Matt Johnson from Mid-MN Development Commission to see if the city can get the LOI in by the deadline.

The Fire Department was awarded a matching grant through the DNR for wildland and structural PPE. This is a \$2,500 matching grant.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE DNR GRANT, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-24, RESOLUTION ADOPTING ASSESSMENTS FOR LAWN CARE CHARGES PAYABLE IN 2020, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY LAUMER TO APPROVE THE FALL NEWSLETTER, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Scenic Sign recommended refacing the top portion of the electronic sign above the advertising sponsors. After getting it back to their shop, they realized it wasn't in very good shape. The cost would not exceed \$995.00 to reface the entire top of the sign. If the city wanted to replace only the Lions logos it would be \$235.00. Scenic Sign also recommended replacing the fluorescent lighting with new LED lighting while it was down. The cost for that would not exceed \$1,795.00 and includes disposal of the old bulbs. Council agreed to reface the entire top and replace the lighting at a cost not to exceed \$2,790.00.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO MAKE THE UPGRADES TO THE SIGN, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission update – the commission recommended to allow the resident at 261 Central Avenue South until October 25th to finish the siding on the home. If not completed by then, the city will move forward with getting the homeowner's approval to finish the work and assess it to the real estate taxes. The shed at 230 Central Avenue South is now in compliance. There is a vacancy on the Board of Adjustments. This has to be filled by a citizen-at-large. Notice of the vacancy will be added to the newsletter. The commission also discussed looking at structuring the penalty fee for starting work without a permit, rather than a flat fee. A letter will be sent to a resident that built a shed without getting a permit.

EDA update – The board recommended approval of a revolving loan in the amount of \$50,000 to Jeff and Reneen Babbitt to assist them with the purchase of Stein's Thriftway. There is someone interested in purchasing some of the highway frontage at Glenshire Estates. The board is waiting for the workforce housing grant application period to open for the proposed apartment development.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE REVOLVING LOAN TO JEFF AND RENEEN BABBITT, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council discussed holding an informational meeting on the proposed apartment project. This project is contingent on the city getting a workforce housing grant. The proposed location of the building is behind the townhomes that are located near the nursing home. This would be market rate, workforce housing rentals. It is not subsidized or low-income housing. Council agreed to see if October 29th would work and suggested to contact David Tysk to see if he can attend.

The Wellhead Protection Plan is being amended. There will be an informational meeting at Eden Valley November 6th at 7 p.m.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH AT 7 P.M. FOR BOND SALE, 261 CENTRAL AVENUE SOUTH PROPERTY, AND LETTER OF INTENT FOR TRAIL GRANT, SECONDED BY LAUMER. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger reported the pool wall has been poured. The decking still needs to be poured. The pool will be filled again for the winter.

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

Next regular meeting is Thursday, November 14th at 7 p.m.

Geislinger also noted the south door at the Village Hall has broken away from the casting part. He noted the whole door would need to be replaced. He has contacted Faber Building for a quote.

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

Adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder
Mayor