

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

Mayor Eder called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at City Hall.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda: minutes of September 10, 2015 regular meeting and September 17, 2015 special meeting, September financial report, Resolution 2015-35, Resolution Accepting Donations and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-Jerry Oster noted there is some electrical wiring that needs to be updated at the Village Hall. Council approved to have Kramer Electric repair it.

Mona Steinhaus from Annandale said she drives through Watkins all the time and came through Monday night and saw a big fire behind the lumber building. Steinhaus stated she came through today and decided to look and see what it was and found out it is the city compost site. Steinhaus asked if it was a compost or burning site. Council informed Steinhaus it was a brush pile, not compost. Steinhaus noted she saw garbage in there today and was surprised there was no sign prohibiting dumping garbage and not to leave bags. Steinhaus suggested the city put up a sign. Council informed Steinhaus the city does allow burning during designated periods in the spring and fall. Unterberger questioned if it's locked how garbage gets in it. Steve Geislinger noted it is open during the day but locked at night. Steve noted they monitor it daily to try and keep the garbage out. Council advised to check into a sign.

Ambulance Service presented its monthly bills for approval.

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

Kelly Kelley noted the service would like authorization to transfer \$20,000.00 from the operations fund to the new ambulance fund annually. Luxemburg Township no longer makes a donation. Carlson asked if there was a count of service to the township. It was noted that the ambulance bills for its services, unlike the fire protection services which are paid through property taxes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO TRANSFER \$20,000 ANNUALLY INTO THE NEW AMBULANCE FUND FROM THE AMBULANCE GENERAL FUND, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the ambulance service 3rd quarter report.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE REPORTS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the sheriff's report. Deputy Defries was absent due to training.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE REPORT, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

John and Heath Kramer are purchasing Shorty's Laborer's Lounge and requested an off-sale license, on-sale license, Sunday on-sale license and an optional 2 a.m. liquor license. They are looking to take over December 1st. The licensee would be Heath Kramer and the trade name would be Gordies Bar. A background check needs to be done and the necessary paperwork submitted.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE ABOVE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR HEATH KRAMER CONTINGENT ON BACKGROUND CHECK, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Shorty Nistler requested a refund on his liquor license. This would be pro-rated. Shorty would get a refund for 7 months of the license period if approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO REFUND THE PRO-RATED AMOUNT TO SHORTY NISTLER, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Nuisance hearing for 230 Central Avenue South- Kramer noted the property owner was in City Hall earlier today and said he could not attend the meeting due to work. He asked if someone from the council could stop by and tell him what needs to be done to comply. Unterberger and Carlson will set up an appointment for 9 a.m. Saturday, October 10th to meet with the property owner and tell him what needs to be done.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON THAT CONTINGENT ON REVIEW SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH THE RESIDENT BE ALLOWED AN ADDITIONAL FIVE DAYS FOR FINAL CLEANUP, OTHERWISE THE CITY WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH GIVING 24 HOUR NOTICE FOR REMOVAL, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF BRUCE WALZ AND ASSISTANT CHIEF RON KRAMER, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF RAY SCHLANGEN TO WATKINS FIRE DEPARTMENT, CONTINGENT ON BACKGROUND CHECK, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed Ordinance #2015-4, Ordinance to Amend Zoning Ordinance. Planning Commission held a public hearing as required and made recommendation to the council for its adoption.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #2015-4, ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-36, RESOLUTION DECERTIFYING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (REDEVELOPMENT) DISTRICT NO. 4 OF THE CITY OF WATKINS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-37, RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2007B, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-38, RESOLUTION ADOPTING ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER CHARGES PAYABLE IN 2016, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2015-39, RESOLUTION ADOPTING ASSESSMENTS FOR LAWN CARE CHARGES PAYABLE IN 2016, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO INCREASE ELECTION JUDGE WAGE TO \$9.50 PER HOUR, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The Fire Department was awarded a FEMA grant for a fill station and SCBA in the amount of \$101,196.00. The city must contribute a 5% match of \$5,059.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ACCEPT THE FEMA GRANT AWARD, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeker County EDA is proposing to commission a housing study for Meeker County and asked the city to make a contribution to the study. Discussion followed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STUDY, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission Update-nothing

EDA Update- The board will hold its October meeting on October 19th due to the Columbus Day holiday.

Tschumperlin noted the owner of the property at 131 Stearns Avenue North has hired a contractor to clean up the debris. It should be cleaned up within 2-3 weeks.

Property at 151 First Street was discussed. The Planning Commission discussed to proceed with legal action to get resolved. Wirz has talked to neighbors and taken some photos. Public Works has been taking photos as well. Wirz felt the Minimum Housing section of the Zoning Ordinance should allow the city to move forward. Wirz noted there are several infractions with the property and the city needs to go through the process.

Property at 240 Meeker Avenue South- Carlson viewed a week ago and noted it was not in compliance at that time. Wirz noted he viewed it two days ago and it was mostly cleaned up. He felt it was in compliance. No further action will be taken at this time.

Two notices were sent to the owner of an unlicensed vehicle at 175 Meeker Avenue South and he hasn't complied.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO TURN OVER TO THE CITY ATTORNEY TO HANDLE PER ZONING ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Mobile Home Park- A couple homes have been removed. Unterberger and Carlson will view this again on Saturday, October 10th.

Duane Peterson noted they have been doing considerable work in the mobile home park clearing brush, etc.

Wirz noted that Scott Brossard hasn't done anything he said he would do to clean up his property since the last meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO PROCEED WITH THE PROCESS TO CLEAN UP BROSSARD PROPERTY, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the fall newsletter draft.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE NEWSLETTER, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted there were two bills so far for the repair of the sanitary sewer at the skating rink facility and asked what fund to charge it to.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO SPLIT THE CHARGES BETWEEN SEWER FUND AND PARK AND REC FUND, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Policy for organizations to use the Village Hall is that each can use it one time per year at no charge. The Lions Club recently used it for the second time this year. Kramer asked if they should be charged. Council agreed if that is the policy it needs to be followed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO CHARGE THE LIONS CLUB FOR THE HALL USE, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

City Hall will be closed Monday, October 12th for Columbus Day.

Steve Geislinger noted a sign will be put up at the brush site that no dumping is allowed. Steve noted they need to trim trees and the public works department only has a hand saw. He requested approval to purchase a pole saw at Mies Outland for \$480.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A POLE SAW, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Geislinger noted a Crosswalk sign should be installed by the Church Street/Central Avenue crosswalk. Meeker County has a sign and would install for \$100.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO HAVE MEEKER COUNTY INSTALL THE SIGN FOR \$100, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Unterberger asked if the light in McCarthy Park was checked. Xcel Energy was out and it should be fixed.

Geislinger noted St. Anthony Manor is planning to redo its parking lot and wants to put a catch basin in the center of the lot and tie into the city's storm sewer. The city engineer didn't see a problem with it but hasn't seen plans yet. St. Anthony Manor will cover all costs. Geislinger has informed them if there is a heavy rain there could be back up to the parking lot or building and the city would not be responsible.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, November 12th. Council discussed starting time. Unterberger thought they should stick with 7 p.m. Council agreed to keep the meeting time at 7 p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WIRZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor