

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014

Mayor Loch called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Dennis Loch, Sue Unterberger, Jersey Piccerillo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Hesse, Melody Gertken

Others: Kelly Kelley, Ben Aho, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, EV-W Voice, Tri-County News, Chuck Unterberger, Deputy Josh Case, Pool Manager Nora Rohrbeck, Ron Welter, Clerk Deb Kramer

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Items on the Consent Agenda were: minutes of the September 11, 2014 regular meeting and September 24, 2014 special meeting, September financial report, Resolution #2014-31, Resolution Accepting Donations, and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-none

Deputy Case presented the Sheriff's report. There were 33 calls for service in September. Case noted another mobile home was removed from the mobile home park. There is also an abandoned car which they will be removing. Case noted he has contacted residents about moving campers parked on the street and they should all be moved now. Council approved to handle parking violations as in the past for the winter season. Violators will be given one warning and cited after that.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE THE SHERIFF'S REPORT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The Ambulance Service presented its 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report. Kelly clarified some reimbursements to be approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE THE AMBULANCE SERVICE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER REPORTS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger reported that Forest Prairie Township is handling the patching quotes for 667<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ron's Excavating will be doing the excavating for \$2,500 and Mid-MN Hot Mix will do the paving for \$6,688.20. Having Ron do the excavating instead of Mid-MN will save about \$1,355.00. Council previously approved for this repair to be done. It will be split with Forest Prairie Township. Steve reported there was a break-in at the wastewater treatment facility. All three entry doors were damaged as well as the overhead door and a window. The incident was reported to Stearns County Sheriff Department and a claim filed with the insurance. An adjuster will be out Friday. Update on the water tower work from city engineer Kent Louwagie--Some sandblasting and painting needed to

be done on parts to meet the specifications of the contract. The contractor, Utility Service Group (USG), has indicated the equipment they need to perform the sandblasting as specified is currently not available and is scheduled elsewhere for the near future. We are now nearing the end of favorable water tower painting weather and USG has requested the city consider postponing the project until next year. The contractor acknowledged the notice to proceed on August 7, 2014 with a completion date of October 15, 2014. They are not going to meet this now no matter what they do. The city engineer offered these options moving forward:

1. Sever the contract due to failure to perform the work. The city would be liable for all costs incurred by USG to date, which would include the materials delivered, shipping costs, labor to date, etc. The city would need to re-quote the work and have it performed next year. The odds of getting a different contractor to complete the work this year are poor.
2. Agree to have the work completed next spring, and possibly negotiate a price reduction or have increased work performed for same price because they did not honor the completion date. Also set a condition that they must reimburse city for newsletter costs incurred.

Meeker County had to hire a contractor on very short notice to relocate an antenna on the tower that was in the way of USG. USG was then going to fabricate and install an antenna mount for Meeker County at the county's cost. The engineer felt at a minimum this be done this year so the county can get the antenna back on top of the tower. Kent suggested negotiating this work to a lower cost as well. Kent recommended the council go with option 2 and negotiate the costs of the antenna mount. Council discussed and felt option 2 would be the best.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO HAVE THE CITY ENGINEER NEGOTIATE A PRICE REDUCTION OR HAVE INCREASED WORK PERFORMED FOR THE SAME PRICE BY ALLOWING USG TO COMPLETE THE WORK NEXT SPRING AND ANY ENGINEERING FEES THE CITY INCURS DUE TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS BE ABSORBED BY USG, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve noted the sewer extension on Luella Street is going well. It should be completed Friday. A-1 Concrete Leveling finished up with the sidewalks and did a good job. The downspout work on City Hall is finished. The monitoring wells will be sealed as soon as the crops are off.

Pool manager Nora Rohrbeck noted she is working on wrapping up the calendar. She still has some concession leftovers to take care of.

Ron Welter requested a consumption and display permit. He is helping to open the restaurant at the old MT Plates site. It will be called Vinnie's Eagles Nest. They would like to also serve 3.2 beer and wine along with the set-ups. They would be closed on Mondays and open through 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. Fridays and Saturdays would be 10 or 11 p.m. Piccerillo felt the on-sale wine would be the start of hard liquor and didn't feel that was fair to the existing liquor businesses. Ron noted that the cost of insurance for hard liquor wouldn't be feasible for them. That's why they are only requesting wine, 3.2 and consumption and display. Unterberger felt there was no reason to deny the wine. She didn't have an issue with it. Ron noted he didn't understand why it would be hurting the others. Piccerillo felt they should either be in or out-get the full on-sale license or none. Ron noted that state statutes do not require liability insurance for wine sales of less than \$25,000 annually.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ALLOW THE 3.2 BEER AND CONSUMPTION AND DISPLAY PERMIT AND TABLE THE ON-SALE WINE LICENSE UNTIL THE NOVEMBER MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Chuck Unterberger asked for a reduction in his sewer charges due to watering sod.

A motion made by Piccerillo to forgive the sewer to average died for lack of a second. Councilor Unterberger asked if she could get her sewer adjusted then since they water. Discussion followed on the request and amending the city's utility billing policy. Chuck explained that he only needed to water for a short period and didn't feel it would have been feasible to purchase a second meter for one month.

A motion made by Piccerillo not to forgive the sewer died for lack of a second. More discussion followed. No adjustment was made to the account.

Street lights on Central Avenue- Council reviewed information from Xcel Energy on replacing the poles and fixtures. They would install/own/maintain the lights and have two options available. Xcel Energy would provide full maintenance on both options. The Standard Service Option upfront installation cost would be determined. The monthly rate for a 100W High Pressure Sodium light is \$18.16 per fixture and includes electricity/maintenance. The city would be given the pole, fixture, and mast arm, 20' of trench and 100' of wire. Any excess footage which would include conduit, wire and labor would be charged to the city as upfront installation cost. The existing customer owned streetlights would need to be removed by the city prior to any new installations by Xcel Energy. The Pre-Pay Option upfront installation cost is to be determined (average \$4,000.00 per cobra cutoff fixture/30' aluminum pole). The monthly pre-pay option rate for 100W High Pressure Sodium is \$6.14 per fixture and includes electricity/maintenance. Kramer noted she is waiting for a price from Kramer Electric to put LED heads on the poles. These would be brighter and last longer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION UNTIL MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON NEW FIXTURES, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO SET THE TIME AND DATE FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON THE 2015 LEVY AND BUDGET AT THE DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:15 P.M., SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-32, RESOLUTION ADOPTING ASSESSMENTS FOR LAWN CARE CHARGES PAYABLE IN 2015, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The Lions Club no longer wants the 3.2 liquor license for their event Saturday.

Council discussed monthly and special meeting attendance and pay.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO PAY MONTHLY PAY BASED ON 25% INCREMENTS OF TIME PRESENT AT THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO THAT A COUNCIL PERSON MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE ENTIRE SPECIAL MEETING, FROM THE TIME IT IS CALLED TO ORDER TO THE TIME ADJOURNED, TO BE PAID, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Verizon Wireless is looking for a place to put up a tower in the area. It would be a 190' tower of either self-support or monopole design. They asked if the city was interested in hosting a tower on the softball park property. Council advised Kramer to research this more for the next meeting.

Council concerns- Unterberger noted the light in McCarthy Park has been fixed. Loch asked about tree trimming. It was noted Xcel Energy does not trim around secondary lines.

Kramer noted she adjusted a sewer bill for a resident. The resident was unaware that water was running through a hose on the outside of the house. Public Works confirmed the water did not go down the sewer system so an adjustment was made. Council felt the adjustment was made in error. Council asked to have the Utility Billing Policy available at the next meeting to amend.

Kramer noted there was a request for striping the city parking lot at the corner of Central Avenue North and Second Street North. After discussion, council felt it was not needed.

Council approved to publish a thank you to everyone involved with building a playground in Faber Addition.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE BILL AS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT, INCLUDING AMBULANCE BILLS, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer pulled the Utility Billing Policy for council and read the following regarding adjustments. **IX. UTILITY BILL ADJUSTMENT Sanitary Sewer.** *Where a customer experiences extraordinary water consumption during a billing period due to a break in customer-owned plumbing, equipment malfunction, etc., and said water did not enter the sanitary sewer system; staff may adjust the sanitary sewer charge to an amount that is more typical of that customer's normal usage. Staff retains the right to have the request reviewed by City Council if they feel it is necessary.*

After reviewing this portion of the policy, Council agreed that the policy was worded correctly and the adjustment was not made in error.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer,  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Dennis C. Loch,  
Mayor