

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also present Public Works Director Geislinger, City Engineer Kent Louwagie, Chris Lease, Robert Wright, Deputy Defries and Clerk Kramer.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of August 9, 2018 regular meeting and August 29, 2018 special meeting, August financial report, Resolution #2018-21, resolution accepting donations, pool fund report as of 8/31/2018 and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – None

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

Chris Lease, Red Goat Bar & Grill, requested approval to block off the business block on Central Avenue on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a Halloween pub crawl. The bar owners did a Halloween pub crawl last year and would like to make this an annual event. They would like to have a DJ outside this year. Wrist bands would be required to be served and there would be cleanup crews. It would end at 1 a.m. Entertainment would start at 8 p.m. Beverages would be in cans or plastic cups, no glass. Chris is also working on getting sober cabs lined up. There would not be a bar outside. Mayor Eder noted they would need to watch for any alcohol being brought in. Deputy Defries noted his concern would be that people may leave the area with alcohol. They would need to stay within the confines. Public works has blockades to use to close off the street.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ALLOW PUB CRAWL OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> AND TO BLOCK OFF CENTRAL AVENUE FROM FIRST STREET TO SECOND STREET NORTH FROM 6 P.M. TO 1 A.M., SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Robert Wright stated his name was rejected from the city ballot for the office of mayor. The official affidavit of candidacy form from the Secretary of State's office requires a candidate to swear (affirm) the following: *I am eligible to vote in Minnesota; I have not filed for the same or any other office at the upcoming primary or general election (except as provided in M.S. 204B.06, subd. 1 (2)); I am, or will be on assuming office, 21 years of age or more; I will have maintained residence in this district for at least 30 days before the general election; and If a major political party candidate, I either participated in the*

*party's most recent precinct caucuses or intend to vote for a majority of that party's candidates at the next general election.* Mr. Wright filed for state representative and was on the primary ballot. He lost the primary but felt the remedy would have been to withdraw from the mayor's office if he had won the primary. He felt his name should still go on the ballot for the general election. Referring to a state statute, Mr. Wright went on to say he felt the Secretary of State's form is erroneous. He felt no one filed a valid affidavit. Wright asked the council to take this to the city attorney to get the form changed. Council felt it wasn't the city taxpayers' duty to do this. Council advised Mr. Wright to take his issue to the Secretary of State's office if he feels the form is invalid. The city attorney already researched this issue and found Mr. Wright's affidavit had to be rejected for failure to meet statutory requirements.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO DENY REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

City Engineer Kent Louwagie reported the street improvement project was completed for the most part. Kent presented a pay request from Mid-Minnesota Hot Mix in the amount of \$114,241.26. The next pay request should be the final one. The project should come in under the estimate.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE PAY REQUEST NO. 1 TO MID-MINNESOTA HOT MIX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$114,241.26, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

The street work in the mobile home park will be assessed to the property owner. Council discussed the term of the assessment. The most recent assessment projects were ten-year terms at an interest rate of 6%. Council felt since it is all one property owner that a 15-year term would be a little easier to handle. Council agreed to go with 6% rate of interest-the same as prior assessments. A discrepancy was found in the dollar amount of the resolution declaring cost to be assessed and ordering preparation of proposed assessment. Council approved to recess the meeting tonight to allow the engineer time to make corrections and reconvene Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Mr. Wright asked the council to make a motion to invalidate all filings. Carlson felt she shouldn't have voted on the previous motion to deny Wright's name from being on the ballot as she has filed for mayor and will be on the ballot.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO RESCIND THE MOTION TO DENY REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO DENY REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. TSCHUMPERLIN, UNTERBERGER AND WIRZ VOTING IN FAVOR. CARLSON AND EDER ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO DENY REQUEST TO INVALIDATE FILINGS, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

LTD Broadband – Kramer noted she spoke with Meeker County and it was recommended the city get a drawing of exactly what they would propose-number of antennas, lines, etc. The city should also get in the agreement that if they cause any interference they are responsible to clear it up. Kramer also spoke with Arvig and although they don't want to lose the city's Internet accounts, they thought the space on the tower was worth more than just free Internet. Rent on towers can range anywhere from \$150 to \$950/month. Wirz thought the city should take a look if there is potential revenue. Kent Louwagie

noted any lease agreement should be reviewed to protect the city. He also noted any interference would be their cost. Typically, the equipment gets painted to match the water tower. If the city pursues this, Bolton and Menk could visit if the city wants to make sure everything is installed properly. The city should make LTD Broadband responsible for all costs. Council advised Kramer to contact LTD for an RFP.

Northstar Behavioral Health zoning amendment application – Mayor Eder stated the planning commission voted unanimously to recommend to the city council to deny the change in the Zoning Ordinance. Written findings from the planning commission were presented to the council. Council concurred with the recommendation from the planning commission to deny amending the R-1 ordinance to allow for 245G facilities.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO DENY THE ZONING AMENDMENT APPLICATION, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE WALZ AS FIRE CHIEF AND RON KRAMER AS ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed a report from Southwest Initiative Foundation regarding its funding request. Council would like to find out more information on the Foundation. A representative will be asked to attend an upcoming meeting.

230 Central Avenue South – Carlson viewed the property and noted there has been progress but doesn't meet the city's satisfaction. Next step would be a hearing and an opportunity for the property owner to speak. The city could then issue an abatement order.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO HOLD A HEARING AT THE OCTOBER 11, 2018 MEETING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Council reviewed the proposed 2019 budget. Kramer noted a couple changes made since the special meeting but they did not affect the levy amount. The proposed general fund budget for 2019 is \$667,133.00. Council proposed the General Fund levy to remain the same at \$315,231. The tax abatement levies decreased from \$44,170 to \$41,590. The Economic Development Authority's levy remains at \$20,000 and the G.O. Refunding Bonds, Series 2013A remained at \$165,200. Total proposed levy is \$542,021.00.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-24, RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED LEVY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY WIRZ TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-25, RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED BUDGET, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO SET THE TRUTH IN TAXATION DISCUSSION FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018 AT 7:30 P.M., SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO DONATE PLASTIC GLASSES TO ST. ANTHONY'S, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council agreed to reimburse pool staff for training materials as well as the lifeguard course fee. One-half will be paid this year and one-half after next year's season.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ONE-HALF PER AGREEMENT, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

The electronic sign is not working again on one side. Council advised to get quotes on replacing it.

Public Works Director Geislinger reported the obsolete SCADA computer and software at the joint water treatment plant needs to be replaced. Automatic Systems Company submitted a quote for replacement with a one-year warranty for \$16,216.00. This cost would be paid jointly by both cities through the joint Water Treatment Fund. Geislinger noted LiquiVision Technology will be doing the cleaning and inspection at the reservoir September 27<sup>th</sup>. Pictures and a report will be submitted to the city. Geislinger also reported the lights for the welcome sign on the west side of town are good to go. Meeker Co-op needs to get a permit from MNDOT to cross Highway 55 on the east side. The VFW is beginning work on a shelter at the VFW Park in Faber Addition. There was a break in the force main along Highway 55. Geislinger noted he looked at the pipe and it looks very good yet. This was fixed in the same spot ten years ago. At that time there was a rock on it and the vibrations caused it to wear a hole in the pipe. When that repair was done they put a stainless-steel sleeve on and that wore through. It has now been repaired with a ductile pipe and two ductile sleeves.

Carlson asked about the upgrades needed at the water treatment plant and if this needed to be handled soon. Kramer noted the September meeting of the joint board needs to be rescheduled and is waiting to hear from Eden Valley on a date.

Mayor Eder was contacted about parking in the handicap area on the north side of Wally's Café. There seems to be an issue with parking to close to the stop sign and it's hard for vehicles trying to get onto Central Avenue. Discussion was held on moving the handicap spot back about 15 feet. Council will view the area and discuss at the next meeting.

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

Next regular meeting is Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 P.M., SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Recessed at 8:52 p.m.

Mayor Eder reconvened the meeting Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Eder, Carlson, Tschumperlin and Unterberger were present. Wirz was absent. Clerk Kramer and City Engineer Kent Louwagie were also present.

Kent explained there was a rounding error in a spreadsheet that caused the discrepancy in the resolution that was presented at last week's meeting. The correct amount to be assessed is \$47,731.26. Council agreed to the term of 15 years at 6% rate of interest for the assessment.

MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-22, RESOLUTION DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The assessment hearing will be scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. A notice will be published as required and mailed to the property owner.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-23, RESOLUTION FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder,  
Mayor