

UNAPPROVED MINUTES  
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Frank Eder, Tootz Tschumperlin, Marc Wirz, Brenda Carlson. Sue Unterberger arrived at 7:04 p.m.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the August 11, 2016 regular meeting, August financial report, Resolution #2016-28, resolution accepting donations, Resolution #2016-29, resolution approving transfers and delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum-Scott Brossard questioned why he received another ordinance violation letter. Carlson noted it was about the junk and blight in his yard. Carlson noted last time council did a viewing of properties in the city there was random junk in his yard. Councilor Unterberger arrived at this time. Discussion followed. Wirz noted that the appearance of the property has not changed since last year. Brossard noted there are other properties in town with motor homes parked on lawns. He also noted the water flowing to his property since property to the north of his has been developed. It was agreed that two council members would meet over the weekend with Brossard and view his property so he knows what is expected and the issue can be resolved.

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

Brianna Miller requested parking to be blocked off on Central Avenue from Bud's Bar down past City Hall and from Gordies Bar to KUE's driveway on September 17 for Bud's annual bike run. This would be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kramer will check with the Village Hall manager to be sure the hall isn't rented that day.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO BLOCK OFF PARKING FROM 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M. UP TO KUE CONTRACTORS AND UP TO THE NORTH EDGE OF CHURCH GROUNDS ON SEPTEMBER 17TH, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Robert Diffley was unable to attend the meeting. He informed city staff he would have the roof and siding on his property at 261 Central Avenue South repaired by the end of October.

Public hearing on agenda is for ordinance violations sent to 230 Central Avenue South and 241 Western Avenue South. 241 Western hasn't picked up the letter yet but it hasn't been returned to the city at this

time either. The owner at 230 Central has picked up his letter but there hasn't been any contact from him.

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

Recessed at 7:27 p.m.

Mayor Eder called a public hearing to order at 7:27 p.m. for Nuisance Ordinance violation. The hearing was regarding property at 230 Central Avenue South. The property owner was sent a certified letter advising him that he had not complied with the city's prior letter dated June 16, 2016 and that a hearing would be held on this date and that he would have an opportunity to be heard. The property owner did not appear at the hearing. Carlson felt as of Monday of this week there were no improvements. Carlson noted there was a line of trailers and junk lined up, but it doesn't make it any better. It's not up to the window like it was the first time it was viewed but it's not good. Carlson asked what the city can do so it doesn't have to go through this every six months. She questioned if the city had to legally go through this process every time. Kramer did not know for sure. Carlson questioned if the city could start billing for monitoring it. Unterberger asked what could be done right now and if the city could go in and abate the nuisance. Wirz asked what the legal time frame was. Kramer referred to a letter from the city attorney in 2015. Notices must be served either in person or by certified mail. A hearing must be held giving the property owner an opportunity to be heard. After providing an opportunity to be heard if in attendance, the Council may provide for the abatement of the nuisance. A 24 hours' notice must be given via personal service prior to the abatement. If the city decides to abate without seeking a court order, the following was recommended. 1) Document each step of the process in detail. 2) Conduct a detailed inventory of all property collected and provide the owner notice of where the property can be reclaimed and date by which it must be reclaimed or it will be disposed of (sold or destroyed). There may be specific statutory procedures to follow depending on the property. 3) The City should keep a detailed inventory of all costs involved. Kramer noted she would want to verify with the attorney the steps taken so far. Council reviewed the process. Council discussed renting a storage unit to house the property so expense can be documented. Wirz questioned if the city could contract with someone for removal, storage and disposal if unclaimed. Carlson noted she doesn't want to see it get to that. She thought if the city laid out what it's going to cost for time, storage, legal fees, police presence and if the city has to go to this level he will have to pay for it. If he doesn't pay it would be assessed against the property. Carlson questioned if the city has to give 24 hours' notice should they give him seven days and if not taken care of in seven days the city would bring in a contractor to remove it all and store it. The attorney did not give a specific amount of time on how long the property would have to be stored. Apparently the owner could reclaim the property but would have to pay all the charges.

Carlson asked about Scott Brossard's property and viewing it. Kramer noted that Brossard's property was not part of this hearing.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO CLOSE THE HEARING, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Hearing adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Eder reconvened the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. Council agreed to let the owner at 230 Central Avenue South know he would be liable for the removal, storage, legal fees, etc. of cleaning up the property and give 7 days' notice reserving the right to give a 24 hour notice to remove it. If the city must proceed, then get costs from a contractor.

MOTION MADE BY CARLSON TO SEND A FINAL COMPLIANCE LETTER AND FEES TO 230 CENTRAL AVENUE [SOUTH] TO GIVE 7 DAYS TO COMPLY AND THEN 24-HOUR NOTICE IF NEEDED, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Carlson and Eder will meet with Scott Brossard this weekend to view his property and meet with him.

Carlson noted she received a complaint on a property on First Street. She viewed it and all cars are parked orderly in the driveway and all are licensed. Kramer noted City Hall received a complaint on this also. Deputy Defries checked it and found the same as Carlson.

Kramer noted she was contacted about planting trees in remembrance of Alayna Ertl. Council discussed and felt Ash or Maple trees would be best. Council also felt planting at the VFW Park on the north end would be better than McCarthy Park at this time due to reconstruction at McCarthy Park after the tornado damage.

Public Works Director Steve Geislinger noted that Doug and Linda Stenger would donate some Evergreen trees to replace the ones lost in the tornado. He is trying to find someone to spade and transplant them. It might be possible to get some for the VFW Park as well. Council approved to put Evergreen trees back at the Veterans Park if it needs to be done this fall.

Council reviewed the Assessment Contract with Meeker County. This would be for assessment years January 2, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Fees will start at \$9.50 per parcel for 2016 assessment and increase .50 per parcel each year.

MOTION MADE BY WIRZ TO APPROVE THE ASSESSMENT CONTRACT WITH MEEKER COUNTY, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

City attorney continues to work on community solar garden agreement and easements for new welcome signs. The search warrant request for 151 First Street should be going before a judge soon.

Kramer noted she was still preparing the 2017 proposed budget and asked council to recess this meeting to a later date to discuss it.

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

League of MN Cities regional meeting will be held in Paynesville October 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in attending should contact City Hall.

Tornado follow up- Governor Dayton declared Meeker County a disaster August 30, 2016. The city is now eligible to request reimbursement from the State Public Disaster Assistance fund for costs associated with the debris removal and cleanup. The city has one year from the declaration date to complete work. The state program reimburses 75% of the city's eligible costs.

MOTION MADE BY WIRZ TO SEND A THANK YOU FOR THE VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE AFTER THE TORNADO, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted that Xcel Energy will be converting all its street lights to LED bulbs in the near future. This will be at Xcel Energy's expense. This conversion would not include lights on Central Avenue as they are not Xcel Energy's lights.

St. Anthony Church asked to use tables and chairs from the Village Hall for its festival September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Church ordered new ones but they won't be in before the festival. They would be used inside only.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ALLOW ST. ANTHONY CHURCH TO USE TABLES AND CHAIRS, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Kramer noted City Hall received a complaint on a couple lots in the mobile home park that have vehicles parked outside with expired tabs on them. The Zoning Ordinance states all vehicles parked outside must have current licensing or they are to be stored in a completely enclosed building. Council discussed this ongoing problem. Kramer will check with the city attorney to see what can be done if vehicles are parked on private property.

Geislinger reported the pool is being closed down for the season. He is still working on fixing the irrigator that suffered tornado damage.

The next regular meeting will be October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7 p.m.

MOTION MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO RECESS THE MEETING TO SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 AT 7 P.M., SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Recessed at 8:40 p.m.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO RECONVENE THE REGULAR MEETING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Eder reconvened the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. Thursday, September 22, 2016 at City Hall. All members were present.

Council reviewed the proposed levy and budget for 2017. Discussion followed. The city must over-levy \$41,101.00 for tax abatements for Mies Outland and Hilltop Health Care Center in 2017. The 2017 proposed budget projects General Fund disbursements at \$666,767.00. This is a 2.5% increase from 2016 budget. The 2017 General Fund levy is proposed at \$310,846.00. Debt service levy for the Series 2013A Bond is \$165,200.00, Economic Development Authority levy is \$20,000.00, and tax abatement levies at \$41,101.00. Total levy proposed for 2017 is \$542,147.00. This is a 1.4% increase from 2016.

MOTION MADE BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2016-30, RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED LEVY, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #2016-30  
CITY OF WATKINS  
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED TAX LEVY

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Watkins, Meeker County, Minnesota, that the following sums of money be levied for the current year, collectible in 2017, upon the taxable property in the City of Watkins, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$310,846.00
Economic Development Tax Abatement-Mies Outland	\$25,000.00

Economic Development Tax Abatement-Hilltop Health Care Center	\$21,101.00
Economic Development Authority Fund	\$20,000.00
\$4,725,000 G.O. Refunding Bonds, Series 2013A	\$165,200.00

The city clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the county auditor of Meeker County, Minnesota. This foregoing resolution was adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2016 by the City Council of the City of Watkins.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

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Frank Eder, Mayor

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Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

**MOTION MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2016-31, RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED BUDGET, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.**

CITY OF WATKINS  
MEEKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED: The city council of the City of Watkins, Meeker County, Minnesota, hereby adopts the proposed budget for the year 2017 as approved at the September 22, 2016 reconvened council meeting on a motion by Councilor Unterberger, seconded by Councilor Tschumperlin. Motion carried.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

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Frank Eder, Mayor

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Debra S. Kramer, Clerk

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY CARLSON TO DISCUSS THE FINAL LEVY AND BUDGET AT THE DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:15 P.M. AT CITY HALL, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.**

Sale of the old pumper truck was discussed. The department asked who should be negotiating the sale of it and what the minimum price the city would accept is. Wirz noted the cost of the new truck is less than what the department had projected. The asking price for the old truck started at \$100,000.00. It is now down to \$75,000.00. There is a broker involved and his fee is 10%. Wirz thought they may need to decrease a few thousand for some minor things wrong with it. If it doesn't sell this way they would try selling more locally. Council discussed and agreed the minimum sale price would be \$60,000.00.

**MOTION MADE BY CARLSON TO ALLOW \$60,000.00 MINIMUM PURCHASE PRICE FOR PUMPER, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.**

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer  
Clerk

ATTEST:

Frank Eder, Mayor