

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Tootz Tschumperlin, Sue Unterberger, Brenda Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Wirz

Others: Jody Bauer, Public Works Director Steve Geislinger, Jenny Rowan, Duane Peterson, Deputy Defries, Chris Lease, Clerk Deb Kramer

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda: August 12th regular meeting minutes, August financial report, Resolution No. 2021-26, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum – Duane Peterson, 111 Western Avenue South, asked what the progress was on the trailer court. Duane noted there was a trailer moved in a year ago and is setting vacant. Duane also noted that animals are running around the neighborhood at night. He noted there are ten trailers in the park that are not livable and trees growing up in porches. Duane asked if something will be done or if it will continue to be a mess. Mayor Rowan noted the city is working on updating its ordinances. Crushing old homes on site is being looked into as a way to get rid of them. Council agreed something needs to be done. Old homes cannot continue to be brought into the park. A letter will be sent to the owner asking him to come up with a plan on how the park will be cleaned up while the city works on its end. Kramer noted she would have to check if the city could legally say no more homes could be brought in until the park is cleaned up. The property is in violation of the city's Blight Ordinance and it's a public safety issue. Carlson noted the city needs to get aggressive as this has been going on way too long. Carlson asked if the city could bill for its time dealing with this.

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

Chris Lease, Red Goat Bar and Grill, noted the bars would like to hold a pub crawl again this year on Saturday, October 30th. He asked permission to shut down the downtown block from 6 p.m. to 1:30 or 2 a.m. They would like to have the DJ on the street, weather permitting and it takes time to pack up and clean up. Sober buses will be provided again.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO CLOSE DOWN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT FROM 6 P.M. TO 1:30 A.M., SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Jenny Rowan, Watkins Lions Club, noted the Lions Club is holding a Purse Bingo event on November 6th at St. Anthony Parish Center and needs approval for an off-site gambling permit. The Lions Club would also like a temporary on-sale liquor license for the event.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST FOR NOVEMBER 6TH, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2021-27, RESOLUTION APPROVING OFF-SITE GAMBLING, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

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

IT quotes – Nothing available at this time.

Trail follow-up – Wirz hasn't been able to make contact with the property owner.

Ordinance updates – Council will need to determine penalties, etc. and finalize the project. Kramer will check with Justice Walker on the next step.

The purpose of the special meeting on September 15th was clarified.

MOTION BY UNTERBERGER THAT COUNCIL IS HOLDING A SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 15TH AT 7 P.M. FOR BUDGET AND LEVY, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Planning Commission update – Scott Hesse has submitted an application for a variance request to build another storage unit closer to the property line than allowed. The public hearing and meeting for the request is September 29th at 7 p.m.

Fall Newsletter draft – Kramer noted that Public Works will be tree trimming later this fall and that will be added to the newsletter as well as an October 1st start date for the EAP program. Carlson asked about the dog licensing section in the newsletter and why the city should continue this when just a few people license their pets and there's really no consequence if you don't. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO ELIMINATE THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT, SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

The rest of the Animal Ordinance will remain in effect. Only the licensing requirement will be removed.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO APPROVE THE NEWSLETTER WITH CHANGES, SECONDED BY CARLSON. MOTION CARRIED.

Water/Sewer Service & Equipment Installation Policy was reviewed. This policy states the minimum requirements when installing water/sewer service lines or modifying existing water/sewer systems in the city. The policy states that a licensed contractor must be used and no work on weekends or holidays is allowed. All underground work must be inspected by City personnel before cover up and 24-hour notice must be given for an inspection. Council approved to add that the contractor or owner must contact City Hall during regular business hours to schedule the inspection.

MOTION BY CARLSON TO APPROVE THE WATER/SEWER SERVICE & EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION POLICY WITH ADDITION OF "DURING BUSINESS HOURS", SECONDED BY TSCHUMPERLIN. MOTION CARRIED.

Council didn't feel it was necessary to regulate Trick or Treat hours.

Council approved to donate the leftover pool concessions to St. Anthony Church to be used at their festival.

Council approved to hold the Truth in Taxation public meeting Thursday, December 9th at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Rowan noted the old medical clinic building on Central Avenue North has a railing on the north side that has been broken since June and there is some garbage in back. Kramer noted she did talk with the owner about the railing earlier in the summer but it hasn't been taken care of yet. Rowan also noted there are cigarette butts all over the pavement on the south side of the building. Council agreed it was a blight and safety issue. Council advised a letter be sent to the owner addressing the issues and a September 30th deadline to take care of.

Unterberger noted she had some pictures of cars parked on Meeker Avenue North and it is still a concern. No action was taken.

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

The next regular meeting is Thursday, October 14th at 7 p.m.

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

Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan
Mayor