

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Hesse

OTHERS: Sandy Hansen-Wolff, Julie Huber, EV-W Voice, Tri-County News, Deputy Josh Case, Public Works Department Steve Geislinger and Viri Liebrenz, Assistant Clerk Jeanette Neidhardt, Pool Manager Nora Rohrbeck, Ron Oster, Duane Peterson, Mike & Chickie Lease, Ben Aho and Clerk Deb Kramer

The following were added to the agenda: Ron Oster, new skating rink building.

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

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

Items on the Consent Agenda were: minutes of the August 14, 2014 regular meeting, August financial report, Resolution 2014-25, Resolution Accepting Donations, delinquent water bills for shut off.

Public Forum- Duane Peterson asked if there was an ordinance in place prohibiting farm animals in town. Mayor Loch noted there was. Discussion followed on complaint policy. An excerpt from the ordinance regulating farm animals within the city will be added to the next newsletter.

Deputy Case presented the sheriff's report for August. There were 62 calls for service. Case reported that one mobile home has been removed from the mobile home park. He has also been contacting residents about moving their campers, boats, etc. off the streets. It was also noted there was a substantial theft at Mies Outland and the investigation is ongoing.

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

A resident whose water was disconnected for non-payment said she never received a shut off notice. She was charged the reconnection fee of \$150.00 but felt she shouldn't have been charged for it since she never received the shut off notice. Discussion followed. Council noted this request has been made in the past but they need to stick to the policy of not refunding the reconnection fee.

Sandy Hansen-Wolff and Ron Oster requested to hook up to the city's water and sewer utilities. Sandy has never had water and sewer to her building. She was leasing the land from CP Rail and bought it from them a few years ago. Arvig owns property near Sandy and they would allow her to hook up to their connections. Public Works Director Steve Geislinger noted this would probably be the easiest way to do it as no sewer runs on Second Street North. Sandy would be responsible for the costs to hook up to Arvig's connections.

Ron Oster owns property on Highway 55 East and would like to hook up to city water and sewer. The sewer was stubbed out in the 2007 project but the water was not. There is a well there and the previous owner declined water at the time. Water does run by but would need to be tapped. Ron had a quote from the contractor he is using that could do the work. Council asked Steve to check on the cost of a curb stop and to get a quote for hooking up the services as well. The hookup fees are \$1,000 each. Ron is planning on doing dirt work this fall and then building either this fall yet or in spring.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO APPROVE WATER AND SEWER INSTALLATION FOR RON'S CUSTOM PAINT CONTINGENT UPON GEISLINGER GETTING A SECOND QUOTE, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

Mike Lease reported that the rest of the stadium seats will be installed. The state board has approved the park for the state tournament next year. The park is basically done with the exception of a few small things that need to be taken care of. Council agreed that since two council people sit on the baseball association's board there wasn't a need for Mike to attend any more meetings.

Pool manager Nora Rohrbeck presented a picture of what the sign looks like that was purchased with a donation from the Lioness Club. It will be 4' x 8'. Swimming lessons-there were three private lessons and 318 regular. There are some concessions left to get rid of. She updated council on the calendar fundraiser. There will be 1,200 calendars ordered and will sell for \$25 each. The raffle will be 50/50. She has been selling ads for the pages to help cover the costs of printing, etc. Pool attendance- 2014: 4,048; with lessons-6,592. 2013: 3,134; with lessons-5,190. Nora also showed a logo that was designed for the Watkins Swimming Pool. This will go on various notices, advertising, Facebook, etc.

Steve noted that Performance Pools and Spas and Voss Plumbing were out to winterize the pool. He also thought they would be able to pressure wash the pool in spring and touch up the paint rather than sandblasting and painting. He would like to paint the bathroom floors with an anti-skid paint this fall yet. The floors may need to be etched for the paint to adhere better.

Steve had four quotes for sealing four monitoring wells at the wastewater treatment site. Werner Well Drilling: \$1,660.00; Jennings Well Drilling: \$1,760.00; Traut Companies: \$2,270.00, Thein Well Company Inc.: \$2,460.00.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GERTKEN TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FROM WERNER WELL DRILLING FOR \$1,660.00 TO SEAL THE FOUR MONITORING WELLS, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Steve reported there were some trees planted where there is a water and sewer easement on Fourth Street North. Council advised to send a letter to the homeowner explaining the situation.

Steve noted that Infratech was out to clean the remainder of the sewer main along Highway 55 east. There are some future services along the main which were not cleaned out. Nothing else needs to be done until if and when someone wants to hookup. A new pipe would need to be installed for any new hookups. Public Works will be welding the manhole covers shut. If it ever happens again the city would know who was responsible since they are clean now.

EDA update-Mayor Loch noted they are checking into purchasing new "Welcome to Watkins" signs. The board is approaching organizations for donations to help cover the cost. The sign costs are

approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000 each. They would be about 11' tall. The board is still in need of another member.

There was nothing new to report on the tax abatement request from Hilltop Health Care Center.

Piccerillo presented a quote from Faber Building for a new building to be used for storage for the Lions Club. The quote was for \$5,554.00. There will be some changes made. The club would be asking for the city to front approximately \$5,000 for the building. Council previously approved \$1,200.00 to pay for the fill and concrete. The club was looking for a commitment from the city to cover the rest of the expenses. With the fill, concrete and building supplies it could run about \$7,000.00 total.

Gertken's motion to front the money died for lack of a second. Council agreed to wait until after the proposed budget is discussed before making a decision.

Council reviewed the second and final pay request from Mid-Minnesota Hot Mix for the Western Avenue North street improvement project for \$3,797.68. The contractor still has paperwork to submit so the engineer recommended not making final payment at this time, however the request could be approved contingent on Mid-Minnesota submitting the paperwork. Once all the paperwork is submitted payment can be made.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE PAY ESTIMATE NO. 2 TO MID-MINNESOTA HOT MIX CONTINGENT ON ALL PAPERWORK BEING SUBMITTED, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Melody Gertken left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Council reviewed the final assessment roll for the Western Avenue street project. The total amount to be assessed is \$24,564.02. Rate per foot is \$18.22. Council agreed to a term of ten years at 6% interest.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-26, RESOLUTION DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED, AND ORDERING PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2014-27, RESOLUTION FOR HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

The hearing will be held Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Kramer noted the League of MN Cities regional meetings are being held. Cost is \$40. Waite Park will be hosting on October 30th.

Fall newsletter was reviewed. Council advised to put notice in about farm animal regulations in the city and also about water disconnects for non-payment.

Hilltop Health Care Center submitted an application for a well within the city. The application noted it would be used for watering and as a backup in an emergency. Using it as a backup would not be allowed. Discussion was held on how control the use of the well. The Planning Commission

recommended it not be allowed. There was concern of contamination to the city's water supply. Kramer did note that Hilltop stated it would only be used for irrigation purposes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO DENY THE WELL PERMIT APPLICATION, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Council advised to have the ordinance amended to prohibit all wells in the city.

MN Revenue contacted the city regarding a conditional use deed for tax-forfeited land between 2005 and 2010. They requested confirmation that the land was put to its intended use for storm water retention. Mayor Loch felt it was being used for the intended purposes as this is where the water drains into. Kramer will check with the county auditor about it before replying to MN Revenue.

The owners of the property next door to City Hall will be selling and asked if the city was interested in it. Piccerillo felt the city didn't have a practical use for it. Council agreed that it was not feasible at this time.

Council called for a special meeting for a working session on the 2015 budget and levy for Wednesday, September 24th at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Council concerns-none.

Staff concerns-Steve noted that A-1 Concrete Leveling should be out Monday to jack up the sidewalks. The street light by the new VFW Park has been installed also. The drains on City Hall need the heat tape installed and some fabrication done yet.

Kramer noted there was a request for a Dead End sign on First Street east. Estimated cost was \$30 for a sign; the city has the posts.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY UNTERBERGER TO APPROVE THE DEAD END SIGN, SECONDED BY PICCERILLO. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PICCERILLO TO APPROVE BRUCE WALZ AS FIRE CHIEF AND RON KRAMER AS ASSISTANT CHIEF, SECONDED BY UNTERBERGER. MOTION CARRIED.

Repair work on the water tower is tentatively scheduled to start the week of September 15h. The Luella Street sanitary sewer extension should start soon, but the contractor has not committed to a firm date yet.

Kramer noted that CP Rail sent a public service announcement that beginning September 4th, 2014 the federally regulated train speed through the city will be 60 mph.

Council advised Kramer to forward the bill from West Star Curb & Concrete to Hilltop Health Care Center for payment as it was part of the water main break repair.

Kramer asked if the city had to have a written complaint before it can take action. Duane Peterson asked why it had to be filed in writing if someone is violating an ordinance. Council agreed that if a complaint comes to City Hall either verbally or in writing, if it is violating an ordinance a letter needs to

be sent to the resident. Council agreed to put a notice in the newsletter that in the spring council will be touring the city looking for property violations and enforcement actions will be taken.

Council agreed to leave service on the city cell phone for the pool.

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

Mayor Loch recessed the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Loch reconvened the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Mayor Loch closed the meeting at 8:44 p.m. for staff performance reviews.

Mayor Loch reopened the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Steve Geislinger, Virl Liebrez, Jeanette Neidhardt and Deb Kramer had performance reviews given. Council felt staff was performing their work satisfactorily and worked well together as a team and thanked them for their service.

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

Adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer
Clerk

ATTEST:

Dennis C. Loch
Mayor