

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen Council Members: Carter Lokken, Todd Vogel, Cheryl Bjornstad, City Clerk, Nicole Koenen City Maintenance, John Groothuis.

Mayor Tongen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Added Election Judge Pay to City Clerk report and Picnic Tables to Maintenance report.

Motion to approve Agenda with additions by Tongen, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously

Motion to approve December 10th Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

Maintenance Report

- Picnic Tables- John asked council what they would like done with the tables. It was decided to paint, replace boards, and put them by the ballpark.
- Tow Rope- It was suggested that the city invest in a tow rope to help when the dump truck gets stuck. Council decided to allow John to purchase a tow rope up to \$500 and take the funds out of general savings.

Motion made by Tongen to take costs for tow rope out of general savings, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously

Financial Report

Cash Balances- Nicole explained that there is a surplus of \$15,403.77 from the ADA Ramp project. Council discussed options for where to use the surplus. It was decided to put it in the Street Maintenance Savings to go towards street repair.

Motion made by Tongen, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously

Monthly Claims were passed around for signatures.

Motion to approve monthly claims by Tongen, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously

Old Business:

- USDA Grant (Replacement Payloader Options) – John provided options of payloaders for the USDA Grant Application. After looking through them the council decided to have John keep looking. They want to narrow the search down to a payloader with quick attachments and 5,000 hours or less. They also suggested Nicole contact the USDA to see what they need for the application.
- Online Bill Pay- Nicole checked with govepay.net and Minnwest bank for options for online bill pay. Govpay.net did not respond yet. Minnwest Bank could set up an Online ACH to have amounts withdrawn from resident's accounts and into the City's account. This would cost the city \$10/month and then 50 cents per transaction after the first 5. Discussion followed. It was decided to not offer this option right now because of the costs the city would endure.

New Business:

- Resolution 1-14-20-1 Authorizing Transfer of Funds to Sewer Replacement Reserve Fund

Motion to pass Resolution 1-14-20-1 made by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously

- Resolution 1-14-20-2 Designating the City's Official Newspaper for 2020

Motion to pass Resolution 1-14-20-2 made by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously

- Resolution 1-14-20-3 Designating the City's Official Depository for 2020

Motion to pass Resolution 1-14-20-3 made by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously

- Resolution 1-14-20-4 Designating the City's Official Attorney for 2020

Motion to pass Resolution 1-14-20-4 made by Tongen, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously

- Southwest Initiative Foundation Grant Information- The idea of possibly having the City purchase the Corner Store for an extra source of income was discussed. Nicole reached out to the Southwest Initiative Foundation who can award grants to government agencies for these types of projects. They recommended we have our attorney look into the laws and regulations of owning and operating the store.

City Clerk Report

- Election Judge Pay- The presidential nominating primary is coming up on March 3, 2020. Nicole suggested increasing the amount per hour that the city pays their Election Judges. Two years ago, it was set at \$10/hour and recently other counties have paid up to \$15/hour. It was decided to set the rate at \$12.50/hour.

Motion made by Bjornstad to increase election judge pay to \$12.50 per hour, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously

Diesel Fuel, current Welder, and Firehall key were discussed. It was determined that before the city considers doing any maintenance on the Firehall that the Fire Department provide a copy of the key. It is stated in our contract from 2018 that the firefighters would be providing the city with a copy as we are the owners of the building. Nicole will be sending them a letter.

Mayor Tongen adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Nicole Koenen