

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

January 9th, 2024

Present Mayor: Todd Tongen. Council Members: Todd Vogel, Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad
City Clerk: Alan Marohl. Autumn Lee

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

Motion to approve the agenda with additions by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously.

Motion to approve December 12th, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

Financial Report:

- Cash Balances

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

- Utilities – Delinquent accounts were sent disconnection notices.

Old Business:

- Firehall – One sealed bid was submitted to rent the firehall. The bid was accepted on the condition that the renter pay utilities. The firetruck was sold for \$2,092.00.
- Harvest Festival – Fish ON Target Cornhole is willing to set up a beanbag tournament for the Harvest Festival. Their rate for the day is \$400.00 and they would need at least 4 hours to have a proper tournament. The Goose Bar agreed to run the beer garden and will provide the wristbands needed to purchase alcohol. Papa D's Diner was added to the list of food vendors. Cow Patty Bingo was added to Harvest Festival, which is handled by the Watson Lions Club.
- Park/Grant – More information on Jelly Been Rubber mulch was given to council. It is slightly more expensive but is advertised to be one hundred percent steel free, better fall height rating, and no toxic chemicals compared to traditional tire rubber. Alan will order a sample of the mulch. Another insert for the park committee will be put into the utility bills as well.
- THC Regulations – Council looked at few pages from the state cannabis bill, specifically about local control. Council discussed some of the bill including local restrictions, county involvement, and tax revenue from the sale of cannabis products. The bill allows for the city to use an interim moratorium, after conduction a study on the safety impacts of cannabis. Alan will ask the attorney on the details of the study and how much it would cost.
- Fee Schedule – Clarification was asked for fee schedule items number 15 and 28. Alan will also look at the licensing forms needed for the THC fee.
- Water and Sewer Charges – Alan wanted to clarify if a sewer charge should be applied to vacant properties. Because the base fee pays the sewer loan and sewer access is technically available, council thinks the fee should stay. Alan was asked to check with the attorney to ensure it is legal to charge a vacant property.

New Business:

- Resolution 1-9-24-1 Official Newspaper

Motion to approve Resolution 1-9-24-1 Official Newspaper by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously.

- Resolution 1-9-24-2 Official Depository

Motion to approve Resolution 1-9-24-2 Official Depository by Tongen, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

- Resolution 1-9-24-3 Official Attorney

Motion to approve Resolution 1-9-24-3 Official Attorney by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously.

- Resolution 1-9-24-4 Official Prosecuting Attorney

Motion to approve Resolution 1-9-24-4 Official Prosecuting Attorney by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously.

- 2024 Committees - Committees were kept the same as 2023.

Maintenance Report:

- Cameras – For three cameras it would cost \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00. The attorney said that cameras would be an approved use of the safety aid funds.

Motion to spend \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00 of the safety aid funds on new cameras by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

- Parking Tickets – Brad Tollakson is willing to contract with the city for towing and using his impound lot. Alan will have the attorney begin the process of creating the forms needed to incorporate parking tickets into the snow emergency ordinance and ask who will have the authority to issue tickets.

City Clerk Report:

- Public Safety Aid – The study on THC safety and a light up speed limit sign were suggested uses for the remaining safety aid money.
- Tostenson Fee – Tostenson's does charge a monthly fee for using their dumpster and an additional fee for emptying it.

Public Comments:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Alan Marohl