

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023

Present Acting Mayor: Todd Vogel Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad City Clerk: Alan Marohl. Autumn Lee with Sunshine & Whiskey

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

Add Outdated Car Tabs to Old Business.

Add 348 2nd St to New Business:

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

Motion to approve September 12th, 2023 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.
Three Accounts were sent assessment notices.

Old Business:

- Harvest Festival – Nathan informed council that the semi-trailer stage costs \$750.00 to rent. Council agreed it would be beneficial to have even if not used for a band. Nathan also gave Alan the contact information for Tammy Mortenson who sets up beanbag tournaments. On the topic of food trucks and vendors, it was mention that using Facebook to advertise would draw additional attention to the festival. Items discussed will be followed up by Alan and respective council members.
- Property at 330 2nd Street – Due to using the same statutes in the past to convey this property, the State of Minnesota is requiring Watson to submit a plan of its intentions. Watson's two main options are to convey the parcel and remove the hazardous buildings, or let the county put it up for auction. Not wanting it go for auction, council thinks it should convey the parcel. Alan will submit a proposal detailing the demolition and the plan to maintain the land.
- Vehicle Tabs – Multiple vehicles in town have been seen without current tabs. Letters will be sent notifying individuals that their vehicles will be towed if their registration is not updated. Alan will also ask the attorney about adding a fee to resident's water bills for unregistered and junk vehicle violations.

New Business:

- Sunshine & Whiskey Sign Permit – Autumn Lee submitted a permit to construct a price sign for her gas station. The parcel is zoned industrial which contain few restrictions relating to signs. Because of this, the permit was reviewed by council. Autumn stated the sign was already

approved by the Department of Transportation and would be securely affixed to the ground in concrete.

Motion to approve Sunshine & Whiskeys Sign Permit by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

- Sunshine & Whiskey/Lorraine Larson Fencing Agreement – Watson ordinance states that a fence must be placed between adjacent residential and commercial lots. Both Autumn Lee with Sunshine & Whiskey and Lorraine Larson the adjacent land owner have signed an agreement to waive this requirement. The agreement does not adversely affect Watson and can be rescinded by either party.

Motion to approve the Fence agreement by Vogel 2nd, Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

- ATV Permits – Council discussed whether a permit to operate ATVs on city streets should be implemented. It was mentioned they are becoming more popular and that other cities have permits. However, council decided against it and thought enforcement by the Sheriff's department was sufficient.
- Liquor License Renewals – No comments were made about either The Salty Heifer's Off-Sale or The Goose Bar and Grill.

Motion to approve the Salty Heifer's Off-Sale 2024 Liquor License by Vogel, 2nd Lokken

Motion to approve the Goose Bar and Grill 2024 Liquor License by Vogel, 2nd Lokken

- 348 2nd Street – This property's yard has been overgrown with grass and weeds for an extended period of time. Alan will contact the owner and address this violation of Watson Ordinances.

Maintenance Report:

- Mower Replacement – Council looked at an estimate from Erick's Motor sports to replace the current 2017 mower with a 2023 model. The trade in value of Watson's 2017 model is \$6,500.00. The estimate included flex forks and a flasher kit. The total cost with the trade in is \$8,941.00.

Motion to purchase the 2023 mower and trade in the 2017 by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

City Clerk Report:

- MNBC Progress – The city attorney is using council's input to create the final documents needed to pass the updated code. This is expected to be done before the end of 2023.
- Computer Costs – Alan went over some quoted costs for a new computer. \$500-600 for a tower, \$100-200 for extra storage, \$100 service fee, and \$150-180 for a new monitor.
- Christmas Tree – Alan presented a Christmas tree and storage bag on sale. Council thought it looked fine and approved Alan to purchase both items.
- Bernice Robinson put together a few recommendations on grants to peruse for Watson. Alan forwarded this information to council.

Public Comments:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Alan Marohl