

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Present: Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel City Clerk, Nicole Koenen. Two residents, and Bernice Robinson with the UMRDC.

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

Community Pantry was added to City Clerk Report and Property at 330 2nd Street was added to Old Business.

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

Motion to approve September 14th, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

Public Hearing Regarding Small Cities Development Program was opened.

Bernice Robinson with the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission was present to discuss the current numbers and projects. Watson has completed one commercial property, has 4 pending owner-occupied, and 3 approved owner-occupied projects. The grant will expire September 30, 2022. There is a shortage of contractors and they are looking to recruit more to complete the pending projects. A few questions were asked: Where can someone call to get started on the application process? Answer: Call Yesenia with Prairie five to get started. Question: What happens to the projects still pending after the deadline? Answer: The state cannot give out any more money after the deadline. There is a possibility to ask the state for an extension if needed. The goal would be to complete all projects before that deadline to avoid the loss of any grant dollars.

The Public Hearing was then closed as there were no more questions.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances

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

- Utilities – Delinquent Accounts – Two of the past due accounts are in 4 digits. It was suggested that if they are unable to get the accounts under \$500 by October 31st, the City will be assessing their delinquent amounts to their property taxes. Letters have been sent to those properties.

Old Business

- Property at 330 2nd Street – The city received a complaint about the condition of the property's yard. There is debris and furniture in the yard. They also have a tent up in which it looks they are living out of. A letter will be delivered by sheriff if the tent, debris, and furniture are not removed by the end of the week.

New Business:

- Resolution 10-12-21-1 Appointing a City Prosecutor

Motion to approve Resolution 10-12-21-1 made by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously

Maintenance Report

- Generator Maintenance – Pioneer Critical Power serviced both generators on October 8, 2021. Nicole received the report for the portable generator stating it is in good working condition and no repairs are needed. Still waiting for the report of the Pump House Generator.
- Hydrant Flushing – It was decided to wait until Spring to flush all Hydrants.
- Tires for the Hayrack – It was decided that Nicole get quotes for 4 new tires.

City Clerk Report

- Community Pantry – Nicole was contacted by Pastor Linda and asked if the community would benefit from a pantry. They would like to place one between the Community Center and Post Office. Discussion followed. It was determined to allow one to be placed and ask that it be somewhat portable to move for mowing.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Nicole Koenen