

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023

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

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

Add Cameras to Old Business, Add raise for Alan to City Clerk Report

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

Motion to approve November 14th, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

Financial Report:

- Cash Balances

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

- Utilities – Delinquent accounts were sent disconnection notices.

Old Business:

- Harvest Festival – Alan spoke with Prairie 5 about using their busses for transportation. It would cost \$50.00 per hour but it might be hard to find a driver to work the later hours. Alan will also ask the local taxi service, the Watson Hunting Camp, and the Goose Bar if they have a bus to use. Bouncy houses and obstacle courses were looked at from Inflatables4fun. Council picked out three items to start with but may add more depending on donations. It was suggested that a flyer be made for food vendors to save the date or sign up to start gathering interest now. In regards to the beer garden, council agreed that wristbands should be used to purchase alcohol. Alan will send notifications in resident's utility bills to gather interest for a Harvest Festival committee.
- Firehall – No bids have been received so far for renting the firehall. There is still cleanup that needs to be done on the inside including chemicals and legal documents. Alan will ask the fire fighter's attorney what should be done about the documents. Council agreed the firetruck should be auctioned online. Alan will contact a bid site to begin that process.
- Park Equipment – Council looked at a catalog of various playground sets to help understand what is available at different prices. Most rubber mulch is sold in 2000-pound bags for \$500.00 to \$600.00. Alan did find one rubber mulch not made from tires that he will bring more information on at the next meeting. Watson will begin asking for volunteers for a park committee to help narrow down what the residents would like. A few of the major points Alan brought up about the Outdoor Recreation Grant is that it would place the area into perpetuity, labor and equipment contributes to the total match amount, and the end date is March 31st of 2024.

- Security Cameras – Tongen suggested Watson add additional cameras around main street because of increasing activity. Two to three additional cameras would cost about \$2,500.00.

Motion to purchase three cameras by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

New Business:

- Resolution 12-12-23-1 Final Tax Levy – Council reviewed the budget and made no changes.

Motion to approve resolution 12-12-23-1 setting the 2024 tax levy at \$116,132.00 by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

- Resolution 12-12-23-2 Deposit Box Approval – The following names were approved to access Watson’s safety deposit box and all previous names were removed: Todd Tongen, Todd Vogel, and Alan Marohl.

Motion to approve resolution 12-12-23-2 by Tongen, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

- Fee Schedule – Council will review the fee schedule and make any changes at the next meeting. Alan will gather information on cannabinoid laws in case the city would need to change its fee accordingly.

Maintenance Report:

- Parking Tickets – Tongen decided to remove this topic after reviewing information received from the attorney on the matter.

City Clerk Report:

- State Aid for Local Transportation – Alan notified council on some possible state funds to be received for street maintenance. And also went over the safety aid fund’s eligible and ineligible uses. Council’s initial thought was to use the safety aid for the cameras, but Alan will have to check with the attorney if that is an eligible use. These funds have no expiration date and can be used at any time.
- Alan’ wages – Council spoke about Alan Marohl’s performance as the city clerk and treasurer.

Motion to increase Alan Marohl’s hourly pay by \$1.00 by Tongen, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously

Public Comments:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Alan Marohl