

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel City Clerk: Nicole Koenen via phone. Three residents were also present.

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

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

Motion to approve November 9th, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances

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

- Utilities – Delinquent Accounts were sent disconnection notices. Prairie five is taking applications for the Energy Assistance Program that can help with past due utility, electric, and heating bills. Information was sent to delinquent accounts.

Old Business

- Town Hall – Discussed options for the Town Hall. A list of rentals from the past 9 years was provided totaling \$1,605.00. An expense list was also provided for the past 3 years which totaled \$3,889.36 (excluding heat.) Repairs needed such as insulation, painting inside and out, and handicap bathroom were estimated to be over \$50,000.00. Georgette Jones was present and discussed potential grants for performing arts. USDA has a grant for community facilities which would include a cost share. Southwest Initiative Foundation's Grant ranges from \$1,000.00- \$20,000.00, but requires a 50 percent split. The city is paying two bonds, Street Reconstruction Project, and a USDA grant/bond split for the Payloader purchase. The city had to raise property taxes this year to cover the Street Reconstruction Project. If the city were to contribute to upgrading the Town Hall, property taxes would be raised again. If the property was sold, the city could generate tax revenue and cut all costs of expenses from the building. Mayor Tongen received input from two residents. One thought a business should go into the building and another asked the city to keep the building and make necessary upgrades. It was determined to table the discussion until January 2022 to hopefully get more input from taxpayers. The redevelopment committee will also get together and discuss options.

New Business:

- Final Tax Levy – Resolution 12-14-21-1

Motion to approve Resolution 12-14-21-1 made by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously

- Potentially Dangerous Dog – A police report, city ordinance, mail, and email correspondence were provided to council regarding a potentially dangerous dog that has been relocated to Watson from Montevideo. Nicole explained the situation, and stated the owner would have been in attendance but was on vacation until the 17th. As of now the dog is in town and being looked after by the neighbor across the street. The requirements for a potentially dangerous dog are proper enclosure, microchip, and license fee of \$500 annually. The owner is asking the

council to consider waiving or lowering the fee as he stated, "I don't see how paying a \$500 annual fee makes the dog any less potentially dangerous than he was before the fee." Council discussed the situation and decided that the city needs to follow the requirements in the ordinance. They would like the owner to have a proper enclosure outdoors for the dog as well as be on a leash at all times. The owner did pay half of the fee and will need to pay the remainder for the year 2022. The council agreed to let them set up a payment plan.

Maintenance Report

- Nothing to report

City Clerk Report

- Dates Closed for Holidays – The City Office will be closed December 24th in Observance of Christmas Day and December 31st in Observance of New Year's Day.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Nicole Koenen