

# Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel City Clerk, Nicole Koenen. Special guest, Sheriff Derek Olson

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

Unlicensed vehicles were added under maintenance report, utility account at 630 CO RD 9 added to New Business, and Property at 330 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was added after Special guest Sheriff Olson.

**Motion to approve Agenda with additions by Tongen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vogel m/s/p unanimously.**

**Motion to approve January 11, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.**

Special Guest Sheriff Olson – Impounding of Animals

Sheriff Olson was present to discuss impounding of animals running at large. Nicole reached out to the Sheriff to discuss working together to solve this matter. Sheriff Olson discussed how they can offer assistance after the City exhausts all options. They are willing to help issue citations and transfer animals. The City will need to talk with Perfect Paws to set up a contract. Once the Sheriff's department issues a citation, the payment for that citation will go to them. The council thanked him for attending our meeting and offering assistance when needed to enforce our ordinances.

Property at 330 2<sup>nd</sup> Street– Lokken mentioned that he believes someone is staying at this property that still has no running water or sanitary sewer. Discussion followed as everyone is concerned for their well being and safety. Sheriff Olson discussed options the City can look into to help with this situation.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances

**Motion to approve monthly claims by Tongen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lokken m/s/p unanimously**

Old Business

- Fee Schedule – This will have to be tabled again until we can finalize costs to impound animals.
- Storage Containers- Discussion continued over adding a section to our Zoning Ordinance about storage containers. Nicole did reach out to the lawyer to have a draft drawn up, but has not received it yet. Council also directed Nicole to reach out to Richard Enevoldsen to get information on the containers, and ask his assistance in giving the city notice when one is requested in city limits.

New Business:

- Resolution 2-9-21-1 Sewer Replacement Fund – The City is required to put .50/thousand gallons of Waste Water sent to Montevideo into the Sewer Replacement Fund.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2-9-21-1 by Tongen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lokken m/s/p unanimously**

- Utility Account at 630 CO RD 9 – The beneficiary for the property is requesting that the charges for utilities stop at this property as there is no one living there. Council discussed the situation

and determined it was best to continue charging as we do with every property connected to our sanitary sewer system.

#### Maintenance Report

- Generator at Pumphouse – The City received another quote for the electrical work needed for the back up generator. Gruwell Electric provided a quote for \$5,765.08. Nicole mentioned that the MN Department of Health has a Grant program of up to \$10,000 for expenses related to Water and Sewer Operations. The application can be submitted March 1<sup>st</sup>, but the work will have to wait until it is approved. The council directed Nicole to submit the application with Gruwell Electric's quote.

#### **Motion to move forward with Gruwell Electric made by Vogel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lokken m/s/p unanimously**

- Furnace at the Maintenance Shop – The Furnace at the Maintenance shop went out. The water heater release valve was damaged due to freezing water. Dunrite Heating and Cooling repaired the furnace and Royal Flush was able to fix the release valve.
- Unlicensed/Inoperable Vehicles – Nicole provided council with a list of 24 vehicles within the City Limits that were unlicensed and/or inoperable. Discussion followed. The Council directed Nicole to send each property owner a letter giving them 30 days to license or remove the vehicles. If they fail to comply, the City will have to move forward with abatement charges and have the vehicles impounded.

#### **Motion made by Vogel to send out letters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jordahl m/s/p unanimously**

- Watson Church – Someone destroyed the back doors of the church over the weekend. Tongen was asked to cover the doorway and used the wood that was stored behind the firehall. The church offered to pay the city for the material. Council decided if it is still usable after they make permanent repairs, they would take it back otherwise consider it a donation.

#### City Clerk Report

- New Computer – Remote Access – Nicole is planning to set up a time to upgrade the office computer with Rural Solutions, and asked the council if she could get remote access. Remote access would be helpful when inclement weather permits her from driving to the City Office. She would be able to work from home accessing email, Banyon, files, and having the phone calls forwarded. After discussion the Council agreed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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City Clerk, Nicole Koenen