

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

Present Mayor: Todd Tongen. Council Members: Todd Vogel, Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad. City Clerk: Alan Marohl. Jason Kurtzbein with Minnwest Insurance. Autumn Lee. One Resident.

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

Add Ball Diamond Trees to Old Business
Add Richard Enevoldsen to New Business

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

Motion to approve the February 13th, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

Financial Report:

- Cash Balances

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

- Utilities – Delinquent accounts were sent disconnection notices.

Old Business:

- Vehicle Towing – Brad Tollakson explained the towing requirements that he has to follow in other towns. Watson would have to send two letters to residents. the first being a notice, and then after 10 days a certified letter that their vehicle will be towed and put up for auction after 45 days. Tollakson agreed that he would work with Watson and tow vehicles for the City. Alan was asked to check how these rules apply during an active snow emergency.
- Liability Insurance and Work Comp – Watson’s insurance agent, Jason Kurtzbein was present to go over insurance changes. Mainly, it was an increase to property insurance due to adding the firehall and the 2022 storms. Tongen asked how the City’s liability insurance covers an injury at the park or ballfield. Jason said that its unlikely that the Leage of MN Cities would pay for an injury that the City is not directly at fault for. And if they did pay, there is no deductible to the City. Jason also recommended that the extra one million in liability insurance not be purchased. As for workers compensation, the premium amount is adjusted yearly to match actual payroll expenses.
- Computer Upgrade – Alan checked with council on a few specifics for the new computer. Council is ok with either HP or Dell components, they did want a disk reader, and an additional monitor. The old computer tower will be used as a backup.

Motion to purchase a new computer for no more than \$1,000.00 by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

- Harvest Festival – Autumn Lee confirmed what time the Harvest Festival will be at, which was set at 10am to 12pm. Autumn also asked what kind of budget she has. Tongen suggested that \$1,500.00 would be reasonable from the city in addition to any donation received.
- Ball Diamond Trees – Lokken proposed the remaining trees at the ball diamond be removed this year. Alan will get a quote from Broken Limb Tree Service.

New Business:

- Ordinance 2024-1 – The new fee schedule sets the utility late fee at \$5.00 per unpaid utility and specifies what the release permit is for.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1 by Tongen, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

- CD Rates – Council will look at purchasing another two CDs for the park and street maintenance fund at the next meeting. Watson’s current two CD’s will mature in April.
- 2023 Fire Service – Jordahl attended the township meeting for the Montevideo Fire Department. Jordahl said that future expense for the Monte Fire Department will be buying another ladder truck within the next two and a half years. The truck would cost about 2.5 million dollars but Montevideo has started long term grants to lower that amount.
- Richard Enevoldsen – Richard Enevoldsen wants to ensure his storage containers will not be in violation if Watson ever changes its zoning regulations.

Motion to approve Richard Enevoldsen’s request that his storage containers will not be in violation of future zoning ordinance changes by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

Maintenance Report:

- Street Sweeping – Council agreed that having Montevideo do street sweeping would be worth the cost. Alan will ask Montevideo if they can sweep at the beginning of September to have the roads clean for the Harvest Festival.
- Clean Up Day – Alan will ask the County if the discounted rates will be applied if Watson has their cleanup day a week after the County’s.

City Clerk Report:

- Thank You Letter – Council signed thank you letters to be sent to all groups who helped on January 10th 2024.
- Extra Fire Extinguishers – Three fire extinguishers were left for whoever would like to them as they are not insurable.

Public Comments:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Alan Marohl