

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen. Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel, City Clerk: Alan Marohl. Stephanie Weik with the Sheriff's Office. 10 residents.

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

Add Referendum to New Business and Interstate Power Co-Op to Maintenance Report.

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

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

Stephanie Weik – Review of hazard Strategies – Watson is renewing its 5-year hazard mitigation plan. This plan allows the city to receive aid from FEMA in the case of a natural or manmade disaster. The plan goes through each risk and lays out options to reduce possible damage. Now that council has reviewed the entire plan, Stephanie will have it prepared for state approval. Council may add or change the plan but only before it is approved by the state.

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:

- Street Sweeping – Montevideo is willing to sweep Watson's roads. The quoted prices were \$120 an hour for a sweeper and \$70 an hour for a dump truck. Montevideo estimated it would take about 20 hours to complete the whole town for a total cost of \$3,800. They were not willing to rent their equipment to Watson. The deadline to submit to MNDOT for reimbursement is May 1st.

New Business:

- Water Bill Adjustment – Marisa Trexler with her two siblings Beth and Clayton were present to discuss their late fathers water bill. Their request was to waive the late fees and have the bill partially forgiven. Council agreed to waive the late fees and stop future late charges. Council will wait to decide on forgiving a portion of the bill at a future meeting once insurance has been accounted for.
- Compost site burn – Considering the weather, council plans to burn the compost site April 22nd.
- MN Basic Code Update – The league of Minnesota Cities is recommending Watson adopt the 2023 edition of the MBC. The 2023 edition includes changes to liquor licensing, Nuisance and

Peddlers, Insurance provisions, open meeting laws, and background checks being replaced by individual policy. This is the first update in four years.

Motion to adopt the Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinance Renewal 2023 edition by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously.

- Referendum - The vote to build a new fine arts center in Montevideo will be held on May 9th at the district office. Resident may also request an absentee ballot from the district office. Notices will be posted on the Watson Facebook page and at the post office. Alan is working with Donna Krueger to hold a meeting in Watson for residents who want to learn more.

Maintenance Report:

- Playground Equipment – Council considered how they would like to proceed with improving the Watson playground. It was decided to wait another year and let the park fund grow before making any purchases. This will also provide time to find a grant to help support the cost of renovating the playground.
- Interstate Power Cooperative – Alan asked council if they would like to look at switching from Titan Energy Systems to Interstate Power Cooperative, which is the company that Montevideo uses for its generator maintenance. Council agreed and would like to get a quote from Interstate Power Cooperative to compare prices and services.

City Clerk Report:

- A clean-up day for the county has not been decided as of yet.
- The switch to the Neptune 360 reading system should be ready for the next reading date. This will cost an additional \$1200 annually.
- Alan would like to go over some of the things he learned from the MCFOA conference at a future meeting.
- Farmers Mutual will be adding a generator to its leased land from the city.
- Alan had a meeting with a representative from Minnwest bank to propose some new options for the city. The items being Positive pay, Mobile Deposit, a city credit card, and alternatives to the city's payroll and card processing company. Council thought only the card processing and mobile deposit options need be perused.

Public Comments:

- Michael Hilden was present to express concern about his property. He is asking for the city to refrain from cutting his lilac shrubs and stop pushing snow onto his property.
- Joshua Fiscus would like to have the designation of potentially dangerous on his dog removed. His request was tabled for next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Alan Marohl

