

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2020

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen Council Members: Carter Lokken, Todd Vogel, Cheryl Bjornstad, Jonathan Koenen, City Clerk, Nicole Koenen, Maintenance Employee, John Groothuis.

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

Added Tree Removal Quotes and Richard Larson Property Update to City Clerk Report.

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

Motion to approve March 10th Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

Maintenance Report

- Mower- The mower was picked up by Kyles small engines to repair the deck and get it ready for our mowing season. John will be calling to check on the status of repairs.
- New Sweeper & Sprayer- Council was provided with quotes of sweepers and sprayers. Mayor Tongen stated it would be nice for the City to have its own sweeper as we have had to borrow them in the past.

Motion made by Tongen to purchase the 52" Agri Fab Sweeper for \$350.00 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

John and Vogel explained it would be helpful if there was another separate sprayer for weed killer than the one used for ground killer. John wouldn't have to wash out the sprayer every time he needs to use a different chemical.

Motion made by Vogel to purchase 25-gallon Sprayer 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

- Potholes- It is time again to try and fill in all potholes in alleys and gravel streets. Other jobs that need to be completed this spring include, picnic tables, burning compost pile, installing farmers meter, cleaning the Town Hall, and checking generator codes.
- Window Replacement Quote- Mayor Tongen provided council with a quote from French Glass. They have already ordered windows for the Firehall and Town Hall. Discussion followed over installing another window on the back side of the community center.

Motion to have French Glass install window on the back side of the community center by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances- The county reached out and informed the City that the State might delay property tax payments by 60 days. If this occurs the City's cash flow would be very low and would need to use Savings until the payments were received.
- Resident Letter- A resident called to have their meter looked at after returning to Watson in March. While they were away for the winter water froze inside of the base of the meter and broke. It is the resident's responsibility to keep their meter and its hardware in proper working condition. Because it needed to be replaced, they were charged \$100.00 for base replacement. The City received a note stating they would not be paying the replacement fee until the City addresses the problem of the Meter freezing while they are away. Discussion Followed. Council agreed it is the resident's responsibility to make sure their Meter and plumbing are not damaged. If the City is asked to help the resident disconnect and drain the meter while they are away for the winter, they will be charged \$100.00 to reconnect its services. An option of

showing the resident how to do this process themselves so they can prevent this problem from reoccurring every year was brought up. Council instructed Nicole to write a letter to the resident explaining their responsibility for the charges and a possible solution for the future.

Monthly Claims were passed around for signatures.

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

Old Business:

- Mail in Balloting- The council received a pros and cons list from the County Auditor for switching to mail in balloting. Discussion of how much the City can save and how they can continue to help residents who have questions or need help followed.
 - Resolution 4-14-20 -1 Authorizing Mail Balloting

Motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Mail Balloting by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously

- Suspend \$4.00 Short Term Reserve- This was approved last month to be added to all utility billing but due to COVID-19 council has decided to wait until the pandemic is over.

New Business:

- SCDP- Approval of Todd Vogel Application- Deed requires full disclosure of any conflicts of interest with the Small Cities Development Program. Todd Vogel who is a council member has applied to take part in the program.

Motion made by Tongen to approve Todd Vogel's application into the program, 2nd Bjornstad. Roll Call Vote: Lokken-Yes, Bjornstad- Yes, Koenen-Yes, Tongen- Yes, Vogel Abstained.

- Dust Control- The County is offering dust control again this year.

Motion made by Vogel to have the county apply dust control, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

- Corner Store Liquor License

Motion to approve Corner Store's Liquor License pending Insurance by Tongen, 2nd Vogel m/s/p unanimously.

- Security Cameras- Mayor Tongen suggested the City get security cameras for inside and outside our buildings. Nicole was asked to look for options and bring to next meeting.

City Clerk Report

- Tree Removal Quotes- Nicole received another quote for removal of the Cottonwood located between parsonage lane and Koenen's driveway. They are waiting for one more possible quote. It was decided to table until next month.
- Richard Larson House Demo Update- Richard informed the City that he has had several companies look at his property and is waiting for the quotes to come in the mail. Once he receives them, he would let the City know a date for demolition of his house.

Arlen Carl's property was demolished but it looks like they left the basement and the hole unfilled. Council asked Nicole to get a hold of him to have that taken care of as it's unsafe to leave it open.

Mayor Tongen adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Nicole Koenen

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