

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

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

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

Rongstad highway property and Grain bin bottom removal were added to Maintenance Report. City clean up, external hard drive, and Resident request was added to City Clerk Report.

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

Motion to approve May 12th Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

Public Hearing for USDA Grant Application for purchase of New Wheel Loader was opened.

Council discussed the grant application and also the two Wheel Loaders they are looking at. Discussion followed of the pros and cons of each. Council asked if there were any questions or comments. Being there were none the public hearing was closed.

Motion to purchase the 2013 CAT 924K made by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously.

Maintenance Report

- Backflow Preventor Maintenance- Nicole mentioned on the maintenance report done by Voss Plumbing the rebuild date states 2018 for the pumphouse and 2019 for the farmer's meter. She explained that there is grant money through MN Department of Health that would be available to fix this if needed. Vogel explained that we do not have to have them rebuilt anymore. If they break down, we would need to have them repaired at that time.
- Guidelines for Employees/Council to allow residents to purchase services- On June 6th a resident was seen taking gravel from the city gravel pile. Vogel explained that he gave permission to allow them to take the gravel and told them to stop in the city office to pay on the following Monday. That resident never called or came into pay, and up until now no one else knew who the resident was. Vogel said he would contact them to have them pay for the gravel. Council discussed in the future everything should go through the City Clerk's Office and the services should be paid prior to residents receiving them. If residents approach council members or maintenance employee, they should be directed to contact the city clerk during office hours.
- Rongstad Highway Property- Vogel mentioned that Rongstad's property along the highway is getting to be full of concrete chunks and debris. Discussion followed. Because the property is a commercial lot, he might be allowed to have work material there. Nicole will check the ordinance involving commercial properties and go from there.
- Grain Bin Bottom Removal- Dennis Larson provided council with a quote of \$12,500.00 to remove the 6 grain bin concrete pads, miscellaneous building foundation, level the area, and remove trees and brush. Discussion followed. It was decided that because we did not plan for this removal to add it during budget discussions.
- Council asked John to get the City's picnic table back from the Goose Bar that they took without asking. The City just repaired and painted all picnic tables and would like them to stay at the City park or Ball field.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances

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

Old Business:

- Security Cameras- Options were provided to council again. Discussion followed. It was decided to have Nicole contact companies that install them and get pricing for our budget meeting.
- \$4.00 Short Term Asset Reserve- It was decided to add this charge back on in July.
- Late Fees/Shut off Notices/Payment Plans- Discussed when the City should start implementing late fees again. It was decided to inform residents on the next water bill and apply late fees in August. Payment plans will also be offered to the residents who need them.

City Clerk Report

- Budget Meetings- Start meetings in July & August 30 minutes before regular council meeting.
- City Clean Up- The County would not be doing a clean up day this year. Nicole suggested since we budgeted for dumpster to still have a clean up day ourselves. Council asked her to check with Tostensons on pricing of items they would take.
- External Hard Drive- Nicole asked if she could purchase an external hard drive to put files on as the office computer gave notice it is running low on storage.

Motion made by Vogel to allow up to \$125.00 to purchase a hard drive, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously

- Resident request- A resident asked what the process would be or if at all possible, the city could put a gravel alley in next to their property. The resident mentioned they were thinking of building a shed and would need a way to access it. Council discussed options but did not come to a final decision whether it be their responsibility or the ours. Council asked Nicole to have them come to council when they are serious about the shed and have their plans put together.

Mayor Tongen adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Nicole Koenen