

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel. City Clerk: Nicole Koenen, Special Guest: Phillip Schoep

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

Add Request to move a mobile home to Watson before Financial Report, Radtke Mowing under Maintenance Report, and State Property under New Business.

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

Motion to approve June 14, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.

Phillip Schoep was present to ask if he could move a mobile home to Watson. He would like to purchase the vacant lots owned by the city on Highland Ridge and place the home there on a cement slab. The frame would be tied down into the cement. The roof and siding would be redone once moved. The trailer is currently in Montevideo and is approximately 20 years old. Discussion over rezoning and what type of homes can be in Residential districts followed. It was determined the council would need more time to think it over as the city uses that property for snow removal. They directed Nicole to determine the costs the city had to remove the old home on the lots as well.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances

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

- Utilities – Delinquent Accounts were sent disconnection notices.

Old Business

- Street Replacement Project – The paving has been completed, and they will be coming back to finish the shoulders and edges with gravel. Council determined gravel will be used to fill in the edges. Speed bumps were also discussed as complaints of speeding have been received. It was decided to go ahead and order speed bumps for Highland Ridge and 2nd Street.
- Insurance Claims – An adjuster came out to check city owned buildings for storm damage. The report showed there is small dents on the Town Hall and Community Center Roofs. The Firehall had some cracking but was not related to the storm. The pumphouse had some missing shingles. It was decided to close the claims as the repairs needed would be less than our deductible. The cracks will be sealed with a sealant and the shingles have already been repairs by Tongen.

New Business:

- Abandoned house at the end of Walnut Ave – The property belongs to the State of MN and is outside of the City limits. The County Auditor would need to be contacted to get more information.

Maintenance Report

- New Pump Update – Dakota Pump and Supply installed our new pump and took the old one back to their shop. When they get the warranty parts from Berkely, they will repair it and get it back to us.
- Hydrant Flushing – Byron plans to flush hydrants in September either the 2nd or 4th week. Once it is decided, a notice will be added to the utility billing.
- Add water base charges to 421 Park Ave – After the fire the city removed their water meter and discontinued their water base charges. The property is still connected to our system and should be charged base rates.

Motion to add Water Base charges back to 421 Park Ave made by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

- Radtke Mowing – Multiple letters were sent to the property owner with no response. Nicole called and left a message before having the city mower take care of it. The property owner was given an additional 7 days to complete or the city would mow and charge them. The property was mowed but they continued to leave half of the property overgrown. Nicole asked council for direction. Council asked to call Radtke to have that portion baled by a local farmer. If not, the owner will have to mow the rest of the property or the city will start abatement charges.

City Clerk Report

- Budget Meeting – Scheduled for August 9th at 6:30pm.
- Filing Period for Candidacy opens August 2nd to August 16th at 5:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Nicole Koenen