

Watson City Council Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2022

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel. City Clerk: Nicole Koenen. Alan Marohl, Phill Schoep, and Charlie Paler

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

Add sheriff email and new light to new business, Ben Schrupp building permit to old business, Charlie Paler to new business.

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

Motion to approve July 12, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2nd Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.

Financial Report

- Cash Balances – Transferred \$253204 to Checking from Savings and \$21341 to Street Savings from General Savings.

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

- Utilities – 11 delinquent accounts as of August 9, 2022

Old Business

- Request to move mobile home to Watson – The council discussed with Phill Schoep the possibility of moving a mobile home from Montevideo MN to Highland Ridge. The council discussed costs of removing the previous mobile home from the lot, current condition of proposed mobile home, and the upkeep required. The council mainly focused on the lot in questions use for snow removal of Highland Ridge and alternatives if the lot were to be sold.

Tongen asked to bring to a vote Yes – to allow and No- to keep lot as is.

Roll Call Vote: Jordahl – No, Tongen – No, Bjornstad – No, Vogel – No, Lokken Abstained

- Street Replacement project – Council discussed the need for gravel on certain roads that have been replaced. The council discussed Jerry Borg possibly moving his mailbox closer to the street to prevent the postal service from driving on his lawn.
- Ben Schrupp Building Permit – Ben submitted a new building permit and would like the council to consider approving a variance for this plan. Council said they would, but he would have to resubmit a variance application and another building permit.

Motion made by Vogel, 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously

New Business

- Request for Donation – SW Initiative Foundation requested a donation from the city. Council decided to pass on it this year and have Nicole reach out to see if any projects were funded in our area.
- Sheriff Email – The sheriff emailed the city about edible cannabinoid products. He would like the city to discuss the possibility of passing an ordinance to require the edibles to be behind a

counter and not easily accessible to the public. The council asked Nicole to contact the attorney regarding this.

- Street lights – Electric pricing has increased, the five dollars paid by residence does not cover the cost for street lights. Nicole is suggesting we raise it to 6 dollars to cover the costs.

Motion made by Tongen 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously

- Cul-de-sac – Charlie Paler presented his concerns for the cul-de-sac at the end of Highland Ridge. This included how water was eroding part of a hill which he claimed has destroyed crop land for owner Wayne Karels. His solution was to put in tiling to divert the water. He then addressed his placement of private property signs because of people dumping garbage onto his land without consent. His last issue was his property being used for snow removal. The council explained that the city has a right of way for snow removal of 33 feet starting from the center of the street and that they would prefer him to remove his private property signs so the contractor doesn't hit them during snow removal. No final decisions were made but Charlie agreed to acquire estimates for constructing tile. The Council would inspect the hill that was eroding and talk with Wayne Karels about this issue.

Maintenance Report

- Insurance claim - Disposal Plant was struck by lightning and destroyed both pumps in our lift station. An electrician had to come out and do repairs. Tongen called our insurance agent to start a claim. Byron provided a quote for repairs that totaled \$57787.
- Speed bumps – Council decided to wait until spring to purchase speed bumps.

City Clerk Report

- MNDOT Notice – MNDOT will be updating our population signs. They stated our building permit required sign needs to be removed.

Council was informed that Robert Buchanan is housing a rooster at his property. Council directed Nicole to send a letter.

Public meeting was closed for a Closed Session to discuss attorney client privilege.

Public meeting was opened again to discuss the City Clerk/Treasurer position. The personnel committee conducted interviews and recommended Alan Marohl to be hired.

Motion made by Vogal 2nd Lokken m/s/p unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk, Alan Marohl