

**JANUARY 8, 2014
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Pat Wortham, Shane Hagstrom and Reed Schmidt. Gary Tagtow was absent. Visitors at the meeting were members of the Jared Voge from Bolton and Menk, and Greg Tauer. Representing the city departments was Police Trevor Berger and Officer Ross Johnson, Andrew Carlson from the Fire Department and Steve Bomstad of the maintenance department.

The minutes of the regular meeting of December 4, 2013, was motioned for approval by Wortham second by Hagstrom. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS AND DIRECTORS

The motion to approve the Commissioners and directors designation was made by Hagstrom and second by Wortham. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2013-01 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DEPOSITORS

The motion to approve the official depositors and supplemental depositors of Harvest Bank, Home State Bank of Willmar, and North American Bank in Willmar was made by Hagstrom and second by Wortham. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2013-02 DESIGNING COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEEM

The motion to approve the council President Pro tem as Shane Hagstrom was made by Schmidt and second by Wortham. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2013-03 DESIGNING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

The motion to approve the official newspaper as West Central Tribune was made by Wortham and second by Hagstrom. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2013-04 DESIGNING OFFICE WORKMAN'S COMP AND LIB AGENT

The motion to approve the workers comp and liability agent as Steve Lueders of Home Agency in Kandiyohi was made by Hagstrom and second by Wortham. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2013-05 DESIGNING JIM SOLHEID AS BUILDING OFFICIAL

The motion to approve Jim Solheid as building official was made by Hagstrom and second by Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION 2013-06 MID-MONTH BILL PAYMENT

The motion to approve the acknowledgement of payment of mid-month bills by the City Clerk/Treasurer was made by Wortham and second by Hagstrom. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Trevor Berger informed the council that he had received a letter back from the owners of 301 Main Street North. They will remove some of the bushes come spring time. Berger felt that the bushes were trimmed back far enough until they could be transplanted. Council reviewed the 2013 December and year-end report. Berger reminded the council they need pass a motion to approve the purchase of the new squad car. Motion was made by Hagstrom and second by Wortham to purchase the car from Atwater Ford. Motion carried by all members.

Berger is trying a new outreach to the community by having coffee with a cop. His first effort there was only 5 people in attendance. He plans to have the event again in February. He taught preschoolers on Friday about stranger danger and other safety courses. A program through the National Child Safety council need the community's backing through donations. They would cover the cost of the materials. They cover from infants to senior citizens. He also informed the council that he has signed up for the annual Police Chiefs convention in March to be held in Rochester.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The annual Gala will be held in April with proceeds to go to extraction equipment.

MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT

Bomstad informed the council that the water tower looked pretty good for this time of year with the mixer doing its job. No ice had formed and they were able to up the amount of water in the tower for better fire protection. The speedometer has quit in the blue maintenance pickup truck, at a cost of over \$ 400, it needs a new dash cluster. St. John Church would like to have the city do sanding, council decided to charge \$200 per sanding after the initial free sanding.

PARKS

Aerator from the Department of Natural Resources is in the lake and working well. The city may have to invest in purchasing one next year for the lake. Bomstad told the council he will scrape the streets on Friday with the road grader.

Hagstrom meet with the Atwater Lions club for parks and playground equipment for Centennial Park. They will be working with the city on any plans to add equipment to the parks. The Atwater Baseball Association has purchased 150 seats @ \$40 each for future grandstand and

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additional seating which they plan to build.

Schmidt told the council that Bethlehem Church is planning on paving part of the two-thirds of the alley and the new parking lot. They plan on slanting it to the south for proper drainage. Schmidt was designated as the liaison between the church and council.

EDA REPORT

The water pipes froze at the Wellness Center in the dentist office that was taken care of quickly. The EDA has been approached by a chiropractor to possibly opening an office in the Wellness Center.

CLERKS DEPARTMENT

Clerk Smith informed the council that the December Cash flow and check register for December are in the agenda packet. Next Smith explained that the water bill for 510 Fourth Street North has been incorrectly billed a large amount of gallons they haven't used. Total refund would be \$8,504.37 over 10 years. A motion to approve refunding Ricky and Tony Whitcomb was made by Wortham and second by Hagstrom. Motion was carried by all members. Smith plead with the council to seriously think of replacing the meters in town with ones that could be read remotely and then downloaded in the utility billing computer. City Engineer Voge informed the council remote read meters would qualify to be added to PFA loan.

GREG TAUER – PANCAKE

Tauer informed the council that on April 20th there will be a pancake breakfast with the Lions Club as a fund raiser for Festival Days. Please attend and post in the newsletter.

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES INSURANCE TRUST

The city received a refund from the LMCIT of \$4059 for property and casualty dividend for 2013. This is up from last year's dividend of \$6507 in 2012 and \$4548 from 2011.

PFA – PPL LIST FOR 2015

Council directed Voge to keep Atwater on the list for 2015 for Fourth Street South. A short discussion of another council workshop to be held, council decided to wait until Tagtow is back from vacation to hold the workshop.

CAFETERIA PLAN CHANGE ON ELIGIBILITY

Motion to accept the change on eligibility for the city's cafeteria plan for a "good faith" compliance to employees working less than 20 hours and those on probation for 6 months. Motion made by Hagstrom and second by Wortham. Motion carried by all members.

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DANCE PERMITS

Dance permit for the IDK for the month of February was motioned by Wortham and second by Hagstrom. Motion carried unanimously. Dance permit for the HandleBar for the month of February was motioned by Hagstrom and second by Wortham. Motion carried unanimously.

2014 WAGES FOR EMPOLYEES

After a brief discussion a motion was made by Wortham and second by Hagstrom to approve the wages as presented in December. Schmidt recused himself from the topic due to the fact he is still a part-time employee. Motion carried with Olson, Wortham and Hagstrom voting in favor.

BUILDING OFFICIAL CONTRACT

Motion was made by Wortham and second by Hagstrom to approve the 2014 contract for building official with New London and Spicer. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following verified accounts were presented for payment, upon approval of the Finance Committee; it was moved by Hagstrom and second by Schmidt. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: January 9th, 2014 (Checks numbers 25048-25069 for \$8,046.37).

A motion was made to adjourn by Hagstrom and second by Wortham at 8:38 p.m.

Goldie Smith
City Clerk/Treasurer