

**NOVEMBER 7, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Deb Mickle, and Sandy Walsh. Shane Hagstrom was absent. Visitors at the meeting were Kelsey Olson from Kandiyohi County EDC, Tony Holtz, Tiffany Hintz, Alan Nordine Sr., Jim Norbie, Pam Rosenau of MVTV Bryan martin Marty Kragenbring and Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

Representing the city departments were Police Chief Ross Johnson, Fire Chief Chad Busskohl and Jason Johnson Maintenance Supervisor. The minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2022, were motioned for approval by Deb Mickle second by Sandy Walsh. Motion carried unanimously.

**KELSEY OLSON FROM KANDIYOHI EDC – REGARDING CHILD CARE**

Kelsey Olson from Kandiyohi County EDC presented information on Rural Child Care Innovation Program done in 2019. The county is over 900 short of slots for day care. They are hoping to start 2 new daycares. Local actives are forgivable loan funds, mentorship program, license fee reimbursement and several other options. They want to know of any new businesses so they can promote them on the county website. They also have a business academy, which is a 12 week course for free to new or current business owners.

**TONY HOLTZ**

Holtz appeared before the council explaining that he has spoken to the three owners of the downtown lots. Holtz would like to see something done with these empty lots.

**TIFFANY HINTZ – ATWATER FESTIVAL DAYS COMMITTEE -PASSPORT CHRISTMAS**

Hintz distributed a list of events. They will be putting lights on the shelter and the bathroom. She thanked the council for their support. The event will happen Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**PAM ROSENAU FROM MINNESOTA VALLEY TV WIRELESS – AGREEMENT FOR WATER TOWER LEASE**

Rosenau reviewed the two options for space for equipment on the water tower. Rent would be \$150 a month or service in lieu of payment of 15 Mbps upload and download for three places. They would have their own electric meter. They ask that they have 24 hour access to the equipment.

**LETTER FROM GARY TAGTOW – REGARDING NORTHERN STREET PROJECT**

Mayor Olson read the following letter from Gary Tagtow. “Atwater City Council, in reference to the planned North Side improvement project. My property is at 700 Minnesota Ave property ID number is 40-075-0630. I object to any assessment on this property. The road on

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Minnesota Ave between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th Street is in excellent condition having been replace recently. Olson sited that there is no water or sewer on

**2023 NORTH SIDE STREET PROJECT – SPENCER JOHNSON – BOLTON MENK**

Al Nordine Sr. asked if he is getting charged for both sides of the street since he is on a corner. Spencer Johnson explained that the assessment policy is 100% on the short side and 1/3 of the long side of the corner. A question was asked when the next public meeting regarding the improvement is going to occur. Johnson said the plans need to be finished yet and the next meeting is projected to be in February or March of 2023 so the public can see the design. The estimates on the proposed were costs from previous year projects. Jim Norbie asked why Willmar dropped their assessments 30%? Mayor Olson didn't know what the situation was in Willmar.

Spencer Johnson updated the addition of Lincoln Street N from Atlantic Ave E to Pleasant Ave East to eliminate rust and Idaho Ave from Main Street South to Second Street South and between Third and Fourth Street South. Motion was made by Deb Mickle to pass Resolution 2022-18 adding the two streets to the 2023 Street project. Motion was second by Brian Carlson, pass with everyone voting in favor of the motion.

Johnson informed the council that someone will be in town to change the impeller at the lift station on Atlantic. Mayor Olson said he spoke to Gratz and now that the crops are out of the field it would be possible to do the test well.

**MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Jason Johnson thanks the council for the dump trailer, it was used this past month in sweeping leaves and getting them to the brush site. Johnson received the Mn Dept of Health Sanitary Sewer report for Atwater. One recommendation was to have a dedicated portable or in place auxiliary power at the lift stations (4). Second was obtaining a backflow preventor for the hydrants used for filling trucks or tanks and a lock.

Johnson is concerned that people have dumping garbage, broken windows, and leaves in the bags at the brush site. There has been way too much landfill material. Motion was made by Brian Carlson to close the brush site as of tonight. Motion was second by Deb Mickle and carried unanimously. Next, he informed the council that he was in contact with someone from the U of M and they will be coming out here to our parks to examine our trees.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Ross Johnson informed the Council that their PC was fried when we lost power a couple of weeks ago. He has ordered a new PC and two screens. The hard drive is intact. Lunch with seniors was a great success with 85 people in attendance. Also ran out of candy at the "Trunk and Treat". The county is short of officers to work the road, so our part time police officers are not available until January to do hours here.

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Chad Busskohl the bylaws are finished and out to the fire department members.

**CITY CLERKS OFFICE**

The October cashflow, October check summary register, she had a visit from League of Minnesota Cities regarding the 4M fund. We also need to clarify who the user for the brush site should be. Mayor Olson stated it is for city residents, some Diamond Lake -but only for brush and leaves. Clerk Smith reviewed the minutes from the October 2022 and saw that Jason Johnson is done with his probation period. She asked if that comes with a step increase. Council said yes one step increase retroactive from October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Republish the Fourth Street South lot for sale.

**404 GARFIELD PURCHASE – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT**

Motion was made by Brian Carlson not to reassess the special assessment on 404 Garfield (\$3,885). Discussion was that it wasn't his fault, it was the previous owner. Second by Deb Mickle. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2022-17 AGREEMENT OF ASSESSMENT ON EAST ROAD**

A motion was made by Sandy Walsh and second by Brain Carlson to accept the agreement of assessment and waiver for East Road. Three parties effected are Shirley Wallin, Glen and Marsha Hovey and Divine House Properties. Each would-be responsible for \$ 3,100. Council decided it would be over a 10-year period. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

The following verified accounts were presented for payment, upon approval of the Finance Committee; it was moved by Brian Carlson and second by Deb Mickle. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: November 9, 2022 (Checks numbers 31347 thru 31383 for \$ 40,946.68). Mid-month bills paid on November 21, 2022 and were check numbers 31422 through 31456 for \$ 12,851.47.

A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Deb Mickle 9:37 p.m.

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Goldie Smith  
City Clerk and Treasurer