

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Shane Hagstrom, Deb Mickle, and Sandy Walsh. Visitors at the meeting were residents Sheriff Eric Holien, Andy Gilbertson, Jeff Doty resident of Third Street South, Sam Schultz from the HandleBar, Tiffany Hintz from the Atwater Festival Days committee, Josh Meyer from Jennie-O, and Bobby Blake and his wife.

Representing the city departments were Police Chief Ross Johnson, Fire Chief Chad Busskohl and fire fighter Mike Smith, and Jason Johnson Maintenance Supervisor. The minutes of the regular meeting of August 1, 2022, were motioned for approval by Shane Hagstrom second by Sandy Walsh. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF ERIC HOLIEN – THC EDIBLES ORDINANCE

Holien explained that when the State Legislature passed the new law it lacked rules and guidelines. The minimum is the person must be 21 years or older to sell, must be in a structure and must be on display behind the counter. Some cities are treating it like a liquor license. Walsh asked why they are put in the form of a gummy, something kids like. Holien didn't know that answer except it takes longer to absorb into the body.

ANDY GILBERTSON – EMPTY LOT ON GARFIELD

Gilbertson asked what the cost would be to purchase the empty lot on 404 Garfield. There was \$12,072.48 in property tax, but the minimum bid is \$7,000. Smith will have to check on how the Fire Call was assessed and if it can or would the council even want it on the books again. Gilbertson will come back to the next council meeting.

JEFF DOTY – CLEAN UP LETTER

Doty read the letter written to him thanking him for removing the Cadillac, then questioned by the pickup truck was a big deal now and not before. He stated that it runs and drives, it is his first truck which he plans on keeping. He doesn't see why he should get the letter since there is no victim in the case. Walsh explained that we do the clean up tour a couple of times and we don't see everything the first time. She stated that we want our community to attractive and well kept. It wasn't so much the car sitting as the grass around the vehicle doesn't get mowed either.

SAM SCHULTZ – STREET DANCE AND ALCOHOL PERMITS

Schultz representing the HandleBar asked for a street dance permit for October 1st in front of the bar on Atlantic from 9 pm to midnight. They would have a beer garden inside the fenced in area. The alcohol at the park would be from 11 am to 7 pm during the kick ball tournament. Motion to approve the street dance for October 1st and off premise liquor license for the street dance and the city park was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Sandy Walsh. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor.

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TIFFANY HINTZ – OKTOBER FEST

Hintz handed out a schedule of events for October 1st varying from Kickball, bean bags, axe throwing, hayrides, craft vendors, food at Kingery Field, and outdoor kids' movie followed by Laser Tag.

JOSH MEYER – JENNIE-O TURKEY STORE

Avian flu is back again. They are asking permission to install green lights off of the feed mill to deter the water fowl on the city ponds. They see the pond as a major congregation area. Motion by Walsh and seconded by Deb Mickle to grant permitting to Jennie-O to point to the holding ponds. Motion carried.

BOBBY BLAKE – RESIDENT ON SECOND STREET

Blake and his wife questioned if the city has applied for any grants or financial help for the 7.5 million dollar project. They are concerned about the high assessment amounts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Chad Busskohl informed the Council that they are redoing the by-laws for the fire department. When they are finished with it they will forward them to the council for final approval. October 4th is the spaghetti supper. The door on the East side of the fire hall needs to be replaced. Mayor Olson has a bid he will read during the Mayor's report.

The fire department is purchasing a stabilizer bar and "tele crib" from Alex Air for \$3,700 from the Gala fund raising. They would help with a roll over car. Motion to purchase the stabilizer bar and crib for \$3700 by Deb Mickle and second by Walsh. Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Ross Johnson explained that Lange and he are the only ones who have time for patrol hours. He hopes the schedule will be back to normal in October. Council read the report submitted by the Chief. No one had questions. He is hoping to start a safety class for the elementary age kids. He asked the council to reinstate Taylor Fenrich to the police department. He left a couple years ago.

Motion made by Walsh to bring back Taylor Fenrich to the department at the same pay scale as Lange. Motion seconded by Brian Carlson. Motion carried. Johnson asked if the department could run a standing job opening for part time police officers. Motion made by Walsh and second by Carlson. Motion carried. Johnson then reviewed the audit for the body camera done by an outside agency. We were found compliant, and the audit is good for two years. We need to add it to our web site when it is up and running.

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MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT

Jason Johnson the water tower has been flushed and the water mixer in installed. Well #4 and #1 are running in tandem. Minnesota Department of Health nitrate test came back at 9.2 part per billion. Johnson informed the council at 10 we would have to send notice to the residents regarding the levels. He stressed the fact that we should continue to strive to look at a third well. He has had two different companies come out and help with the pumps in the lift stations. He is asking for a contract for preventative maintenance on all four lift stations for \$1400 with Electric Pump from Annandale, MN. Motion to approve the service agreement was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Walsh. Motion carried.

Mayor Olson then read Mike Henkelman's letter of intent to retire as of December 21, 2022. Hagstrom made the motion to accept his retirement as the end of this year and was second by Mickle. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. Also on that order, Jason Johnson has fulfilled his 6 month probation period and needs to be take of probation. Mayor Olson and Deb Mickle will meet with him.

Olson then read the quote from Mid Central Door out of Waite Park for \$3,188.44 replace the door on the east side of the fire hall. Motion to approve was made by Mickle and second by Walsh. Motion carried.

CITY CLERKS REPORT

Clerk Smith requested the council set the burn days for October. Council said the Saturdays starting with 8th thru the 29th. She has received the Fire Relief Association's Fire-21 spreadsheet and SC-22. There is a surplus of \$100,000 and no city contribution is needed. The maximum lump sum remains at \$1600. Also received was the 2020/2021 audit for the relief. She passed around a sample of the 2022 general election ballot for November 8th.

EMERGENCY THC ORDANACE

Motion was made by Carlson and second by Walsh to adopt the one-year moratorium as Spicer did. Discussion was as long they are doing it legally, or possibly do it through an ordinance. Carlson wanted to make sure we can lift it early if we get ordinances in place. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor.

2023 BUDGET REVIEW

Mayor opened the floor for questions. Most of the budget remained the same. Mickle asked how the fire and ambulance department can ask for such big pay increases without increasing the wages or training line item. Olson reminded the council that there is no increasing the budget after the preliminary budget is submitted. Mayor Olson called for the Resolution 2022-15 for the 2023 Fiscal year budget for \$592,259 or 3.21% levy increase was motioned by Carlson and seconded by Walsh. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor.

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The city council decided to hold its public hearing for the 2023 budget on December 5th at the regular council meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following verified accounts were presented for payment, upon approval of the Finance Committee; it was moved by Carlson and second by Deb Mickle. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: September 8th, 2022 (Checks numbers 31239 thru 31276 for \$ 24,784.17). Mid-month bills paid on September 20th, 2022 and were check numbers 31277 through 31291 for \$ 23,359.56.

A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Walsh 9:22 p.m.

Goldie Smith
City Clerk/Treasurer