

**APRIL 3, 2023**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Atwater City Hall by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Shane Hagstrom, Anthony Holtz and Deb Mickle. Visitors at the meeting were Tiffany Hintz from Atwater Festival Days, Tasha Fester from Atwater Karting Association, Steve Kosbab from Meeker County Cooperative (Vibrant), Aaron Backman, executive Director of Kandiyohi EDC, Adam Bosch from Atwater Threshers, residents Cecila Kurtz, Gerald Schwartz, Bruce Lamecker, Adam Dickerson, Christy Martin, Robin Wothe, Jason Denton, Jim Norbie and Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

Representing the city departments was Chief Ross Johnson, Fire Chief Chad Buszkohl, and Jason Johnson of the maintenance department.

The minutes of the regular meeting of March 6, 2023, was motioned for approval by Brian Carlson second by Tony Holtz. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADDITION OF ORCHARD STREET OF NORTH SIDE PROJECT**

Spencer Johnson reviewed the slide show with Lincoln Street addition. This will correct the sanitary sewer with street reconstruction. The project new total would be \$8,631,752.99. Clean drinking water (Revolving loan fund) would be \$3,834,925.03, drinking water (Revolving Loan Fund) would be a \$ 3,506,484.30 and City portion would be \$1,290,343.66. He reviewed the assessment costs per liner foot. Next on the list of things that need to happen will be the public open house on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. This will give everyone a chance to ask questions one on one with an engineer.

Jason Denton asked if they would have to put in a water or sanitary sewer in their shed on Orchard. Spencer said if there wasn't w/s there before; they didn't need to put it in unless they wanted it for future development. Steven Rudie asked how the w/s lines will be put in the front of the houses on Lincoln, will they have to dig up their basements? Spencer explained that the w/s lines would come from the front and go around to the back so they wouldn't have to dig up their houses. It would be stubbed in and would have an allotted amount of time to connect to the new w/s line in the street. After that the lines in the back would become private and the city would not maintain them.

With no more questions Mayor Olson closed the public hearing at 7:19. A motion was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Hagstrom to pass resolution 2023-18 Preparing the Plans for the Lincoln addition to the Project. Motion carried with unanimous approval.

After an evaluation of the water distribution system with the project and found that Lincoln Street did not meet the minimum water flow for fire hydrant of 1000 gpm it only came in at 500 gpm. He suggested adding it to the project since it is already being reconstructed. Mayor Olson asked the council to think it over. Cost would be an additional \$50,000. Currently it has a 4 inch line, with the change it would make it a 8 inch line to get the additional water pressure for firefighting.

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Meeting next Wednesday with the Mayor, Jason Johnson and engineers will discuss the finding of the well drilling.

**TIFFANY HINTZ – ATWATER FESTIVAL DAYS COMMITTEE**

She informed the council that Atwater Festival Days will be June 13<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. She is requesting the donation for 2023. Motion was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Deb Mickle to approve a donation of \$3,000 to the committee. Motion was passed with everyone voting in favor. She also informed the council that she had now joined the Kandiyohi EDC. She is excited to be at the table to represent Atwater.

**ANGLEA HANSON WITH ATWATER KARTING ASSOCIATION**

Hanson appeared before the council along with Tasha Fester, Zach Schultz and Rori Stafford to give an update on the new season for 2023. They had an average of 80 carts at each weekend, they topped out at 106 carts one event. They come from six different states for 10 races this year. Check out the website for more information. They also need to have an EMS person at the site, don't need the rig present. Could use some picnic tables during the larger events. July 22 is a huge line up with over 200 go carts. They will need additional parking. They also asked for "police presence" just to do a drive through during the races.

**STEVE KASAB – VIBRANT PROJECT WITHIN CITY LIMITS**

Meeker County Cooperative is planning to install to homes and businesses fiber internet starting mid-May. Main line in June. Mid-summer they would to the drops in groups as they get requests. He needs a permit to blanket the entire project from the city. Completion date would be early summer to fall. It will all be directional boring, they will also need water and will hold preconstruction meeting. They will be 3 feet off the road in the utility right of way. Marketing will start in May to residents and businesses.

**AARON BACKMAN FROM KANDIYOHI & CITY EDC – 2022 HOUSING STUDY**

The housing study was last done in 2015. The average study only has a shelf life of three years. Atwater lost 9 in population since 2010 Census, Atwater needs a single family/townhouse subdivision with 15+ lots, 2 to 4 single level townhomes, and a workforce rental with 10 to 12 units. The senior housing is going to go higher in need in the next 10 years. Of the 459 homes in Atwater 101 of them are rentals, meaning 78% own their own house they live in. In 2020 the average household size is 2.89 people. The median income for a homeowner in Atwater was \$ 62,917 whereas renters' median income was \$39,583. House sales in Atwater went from \$116,500 in 2018 to \$143,750 in 2022 a 23% increase. Atwater has a large potential for housing increase with Seniors being the biggest cross section looking for appropriate housing.

**ADAM BOSCH -ATWATER THRESHERS**

Bosch was there to let the council know last years Threshing show was a large success with over 1500 paying attendees. The weather was great and the peddle pull had over 80 kids

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registered. People came from the five-state area with the Lions Club who did the food concessions, The Atwater Legion, the ACGC Boy Scout troop 221 and help from the local FFA Chapter with parking. They are also requesting a “police presence” or drive through just to let people know. They are requesting the city chloride the Kandi-Meeker Road to help cut down on the dust problem. Jason Johnson would check into the cost to do the gravel road. The Atwater Go-Karters also would like to see the road done.

**CECILA KURTZ – SNOW REMOVAL AND MOSQUITO SPRAYING**

Kurtz had a problem with the snow pushed into the dead end. Because of the quantity of snow it blocked the end of her driveway. She was wondering if the private property sign could be taken down during winter so they can push it further into the empty land. She handed out a flyer regarding the Merus 3.0 mosquito spray. She questioned if we really need to spray every week? Mayor Olson said the residents requested it a couple of years ago. He thought maybe the addition of pellets in standing water would help. He also thought if it is dry we really don't need to spray (like last year).

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Ross Johnson reviewed the March 2023 Police Report.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Chad Busskohl told the council they had a car fire, a house fire and had an insurance claim on tanker truck due to someone running into the back of the rig. They sent 8 firefighters to the train derailment. The Fire Department Gala was a success.

**MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Jason Johnson told the Council that the road grader needs tires, he will get quotes, seals in the wheel and cutting edges. The red dump truck has now racked up another \$ 9,915 in repairs again. The orange dump truck will not pass DOT inspection. He was happy to inform the council that he passed his Class D Wastewater license. Motion by Hagstrom and second by Brian Carlson to raise Jason Johnson 50 cents per hour for passing the license. Motion carried.

**PARKS – SUMMER REC**

Hagstrom told the Council that the Summer rec registration will be held in person on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. The park is slowly beginning to show back up.

**CLERKS DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Smith needs council to set the burn day in May. They set it for 6, 13, and 20<sup>th</sup> of May. Deb Mickle and Clerk/Treasurer Smith received 7 applications and set up 4 interviews. They recommended Elizabeth Sherwood for the Office/Utility billing clerk. Motion to accept the recommendation was made by Deb Mickle and second by Tony Holtz. Motion carried

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unanimously. Tomorrow is the pre-construction meeting with Project One for the Community Center. The meeting is about scheduling and the time frame for the project with the subcontractors.

**508 FOURTH STREET SOUTH**

The council wanted the ad to run again and will open the sealed bids at the next meeting.

**LIABILITY WAIVER FOR 2023-2024 COVERAGE**

Motion was introduced by Hagstrom to approve not to wait the statutory limits to recover no more than \$500,000 for a single occurrence. Motion was second by Brian Carlson and carried with everyone voting in favor. A copy of the signed form will be forwarded to Steve Lueders and the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.

**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: April 3, 2023 (Checks numbers 31664-31686 for \$ 131,200.37. Mid-month bills paid on April 18, 2023, were check numbers 31687 through 31712 for \$ 15,237.39.

**SHANE HAGSTROM AND NEW SIGNS**

He reviewed the several popular suggestions for the new slogan for the Welcome signs. Top slogans were “Life is fine in the 56209”, “Always a good time in the 56209”, “Where neighbors matter”, “Where the good life begins”, “Relax.. you’re here”, and “56209 where the living is fine”. A motion was made by Brian Carlson to adopt “Life is fine in the 56209” as the new city motto. Motion was second by Deb Mickle, motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Shane Hagstrom at 9:30 p.m.

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Goldie Smith  
City Clerk/Treasurer