

**FEBRUARY 6, 2023
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Atwater City Hall by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Shane Hagstrom, and Deb Mickle. Anthony Holtz was absent. Visitors at the meeting were Grant Fischer representing the Atwater American Legion, and Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 2023, was motioned for approval by Carlson second by Hagstrom. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT FISCHER – AMERICAN LEGION

Fischer handed out a second draft of the layout for the proposed Veteran memorial to be placed in empty lot on the Northeast corner of Hwy 12 and Hwy 2. There would be three granite slabs and the names in the pavers. A couple of park benches and a small shelter. Parking currently would be a drive through from Hwy 12 to County Road 2 with parking. They are asking for help removing the large trees that are dying and replacement them with new young trees. The American legion would take in the donations and then forward to the city for paying the bills. They are doing the Legion brunch on March 12th with the plans to be viewed by the public. Motion was made by Hagstrom and second by Mickle to go forward with the Veterans Park, motion carried with everyone in favor of the motion.

JILL BENGSTON FROM KANDIYOHI HRA – COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRESS

Bengston explained that the project entails replacing seven windows, four exterior doors, handicapped door opener on the west door, ceiling tiles, install smoke detectors, repair sheet rock and paint. New roof is to be installed along with replacing two HVAC units. The stucco exterior will be repaired and repainted, plus exterior entry light and two outlets. Project One Construction out of Kimball came in at the lowest bid for \$366,745 which was \$42,580 under budget. Resolution 2023-14 to approve and enter contract with Project One was motioned by Hagstrom and second by Carlson and was carried with everyone voting in favor.

SPENCER JOHNSON – BOLTON MENK – RESOLUTIONS FOR REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

Carlson introduced Resolution 2023-09 applying for the MPFA loan for drinking water at \$3,101,140, motion second by Mickle and carried with everyone voting in favor.

Mickle introduced Resolution 2023-10 applying for the MPFA Clean water Revolving Fund for \$3,496,730, motion was second by Hagstrom with everyone voting in favor.

MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT

Jason Johnson announced that he passed the water test on the first go round and the water

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tower will be painted in September by Veolia who we have a service agreement with. Johnson spoke to Veolia regarding adding MVTV to the water tower they will do the best they can to bridge the gap with water tank people and the wireless service. Johnson explained that after Electric Pump did their inspection on all the lift stations and pumps they had several issues that need to be addressed. The priority was at the main lift station from 1999 by the feed mill. There is oil in the housing and some water in the motor. Repairing the lift would cost \$9,613.50 with a 90 day warranty. Second quote is for new pump for \$13,732 with a 5-year warranty. Motion by Carlson to purchase the new pump at \$13,732, with a second coming from Mickle. Motion passed with everyone voting in favor.

The lift on South end of Second street is our next problem pump. We will talk about that later.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ross Johnson reviewed the January 2023 Police Report. The hours covered should be going up, he is working up to a 40 hours a week coverage. Resolution 2023-11 declaring police officer Zachary Lueders to Mn PERA was motioned by Hagstrom and second by Carlson. Motion carried. Resolution 2023-12 declaring police officer Ross Smeby to Mn PERA was motioned by Mickle and second by Hagstrom. Motion carried. Resolution 2023-13 declaring police officer Noah Maschino to Mn PERA was motioned by Carlson and second by Mickle. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Chad Busskohl proposed building new offices in the current Senior Dining site. A 13 by 11 office would house either the Fire Chief or the Police Chief. Costs were estimated \$6200 to \$8580 not including new furniture. The old office would be where they put the SCBA refilling station.

CLERKS DEPARTMENT

Clerk Smith asked the council to officially accept the retirement of Laurie Torkelson for March 31st, of 2023. Motion to accept was made by Hagstrom and second by Carlson. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. Run the ad for position at \$19 per hour.

EMPLOYEE WAGES FOR 2023

Hagstrom handed out the revised spreadsheet and thoroughly explained how he arrived at the numbers. Clerk-Treasurer moves to Step 10, Utility billing moved to step 9, Maintenance Supervisor moves to Step 3, maintenance worker remains at step1 (just hired) Police Chief goes to step 8, and Police officer each go up a step from their current step. Motion to approve the steps was made by Hagstrom and second by Carlson. Amend the Maintenance Supervisor for \$.50 by Deb Mickle and second by Hagstrom. The amendment passed with everyone voting in favor and then the vote on the original amendment was unanimous and passed.

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REQUEST FOR DONATION TO ATWATER AREA HISORICAL SOCIETY

The Atwater Area Historical Society is thanking the city of the \$1,000 donation from last year and requesting the same dollar amount for 2023. Motion was then made by Hagstrom and second by Carlson to again donate \$1000 to the AAHS. Motion passed with everyone voting in favor.

BUILDING OFFICIAL AGREEMENT FOR 2023 AND 2024

Motion to approve the building official agreement with New London for 2023 and 2024 was made by Carlson and seconded Mickle. Motion approved.

2022 END OF YEAR RESERVE BALANCES

Smith submitted for council approval the 2022 year ending reserves amounts as listed: Police car at \$28,683.41, Maintenance equipment at \$106,351.83, Fire Truck reserve at \$488,722.19, ambulance reserve at \$90,527.74, Street improvements at \$483,760.86, Parks at \$13,011.86 and building reserve at \$142,800.26. Motion was made Carlson and second by Mickle to approve the reserves. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following verified accounts were presented for payment, upon approval of the Finance Committee; it was moved by Mickle and second by Carlson. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: February 7th, 2023 (Checks numbers 31559-31583 for \$ 64,003.18. Mid-month bills paid on February 15th, 2023, were check numbers 31584 through 31598 for \$ 9,986.63.

A motion was made to adjourn by Carlson and second by Mickle at 9:31 p.m.

Goldie Smith
City Clerk/Treasurer