

**JUNE 5, 2023**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, June 5, 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 David Euerle from Westberg & Eischens, and Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of May 1st, 2023, was motioned for approval by Brian Carlson second by Deb mickle. Motion carried unanimously.

**DAVID EUERLE FROM WESTBURG & EISCHENS – 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

David Euerle appeared before the council to review the 2022 Annual Financial Report. He starting with there we no issues, the books were good and records were good. They did some testing for Minnesota compliance purchasing and there were no issues on that. A quick review of the financial trends saw that the General Fund, water fund had good heathy balances. Sewer had a loss due to repairs needed. Clerk/Treasurer Smith pointed out 40% of our revenue comes from Property taxes. Our long-term debt as of end of 2022 was \$2,083,328 ending in 2036. She also reported that the Splash pad used over 2 million gallons last year which should have cost \$6296. Euerle mentioned water and sewer rates need to go up if we get another debt. They may even double.

**SPENCER JOHNSON FROM BOLTON AND MENK**

Spencer Johnson reviewed the to the Department of Health review in the agenda and MN Public Facilities Authority letter written for lead service replacement of the North Side Improvement Project. An additional \$232,400 has been added to the project. MPCA staff has reviewed the project and has opened a comment period for interested parties. Mayor Olson asked about the large bills for engineering the past couple of months. Spencer explained that the fee for the project was estimated at \$1.7 million, and so far to date \$865,000 is just for design. As of June month end we have approximately \$670,000 to be billed yet.

Mayor Olson read aloud to the council the answer to the city's offer to purchase .8 of an acre – he counter offered a price of \$61,000. Motion was made by Brian Carlson and second by Tony Holtz not to accept the \$61,000 price tag. Motion carried by everyone. The city will start revising the plans with adjoining property owner to the east. We will cap the test well in Gratz's field, Mayor Olson will talk to him to find out when he wants it capped.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Ross Johnson reviewed the May 2023 Police Report. He presented a letter of resignation for Police Officer Travis Wendorff as of April 12, 2023. Motion was made by Tony Holtz to accept the resignation and was second by Brian Carlson. Everyone voted in favor. Next

**JUNE 5, 2023**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

a letter from Officer Shawn Swanson resigning as of tonight, a motion was made by Brian Carlson ad second by Deb Mickle – motion carried with everyone in favor. Chief Johnson then Presented a letter from Kandiyohi County Sheriff office in favor of having a law enforcement in the elementary school. It was followed up by a survey of the teachers who were also in favor of a school resource officer. He has an application from Zachary Herzog from Willmar PD. Motion by Brian Carlson to hire Herzog as an SRO starting at \$24.00 an hour on July 1<sup>st</sup> for part time during the school year. Tony Holtz second the motion to hire Herzog. Motion was carried by everyone voting in favor.

Chief Johnson then handed out a code enforcement officer job description. The council reviewed the handout and Deb Mickle made a motion to use it to hire for public nuisance officer motion was seconded by Shane Hagstrom. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. Hagstrom suggested 24 hours a month at approximately 15 to 19 an hour. He will come in and help on Tuesday to write the ad for the newspaper. Deb Mickle received a complaint about kids driving golf carts.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Busskhof informed the council that Jason Schmit is retiring from the fire department. He has an application for a new member.

**MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Jason Johnson the lawn mowing team started last week, he has the hydrant fixed by the school, he is working on the hydrant on Garfield next. He is looking at a program through Boyer Trucks that allows City's to lease a plow truck, his comment was if we ordered on it would take much longer 2024 or 2025. There is a buy out at the fifth year. He also explained that the lift station water is on the wrong side after several minutes it was 15 feet the wrong way. It was installed in 2015 during the Pacific Avenue project. He said that there is a warranty on the lift station.

Mayor Olson brought up a request from a resident who lives on 103 Pacific Ave West, he would like to purchase the “undeveloped” or not paved portion of Main Street. No one was sure how to proceed. Clerk Smith will check with the city attorney. Motion to do so was made by Shane Hagstrom and second by Brian Carlson. Motion carried.

**PARKS – SUMMER REC**

Clerk Smith asked the council to set a wage for the lawn mowing crew. Motion was made by Brian Carlson for \$14 per hour for Carson Borchert and Jonas Morrison. The second was made by Deb Mickle at passed with everyone voting in favor. Aaron Rouser approached Hagstrom to do the fertilizing for just Kingery field. He thought it was the only field worth fertilizing, at a cost of \$ 1250. The motion was made by Hagstrom and seconded by Brian Carlson. Motion carried. Hagstrom proceeded to show the council mockups of the water tower paint job he is proposing. He had no costs available at this time.

**JUNE 5, 2023**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**CLERKS DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Smith asked the council to consider an off-premises liquor license for the HandleBar for a motorcycle run (sidewalk and six parking spaced) for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The motion to accept the license was made by Shane Hagstrom and seconded by Deb Mickle. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. Aaron Backman from Kandiyohi County EDC called and offered the city help in developing a childcare center, Development Survey, environmental explore, or demo and resell. Clerk Smith sent copies of photos of the house at 106 Fifth Street that needs to be demoed, and the EDC granted us \$2100 toward the tear down of the building.

She then brought up membership in the Minnesota Association of Small Cities for \$653.55. The motion was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Deb Mickle to join. Motion carried.

**PROJECT ONE – PAYMENT #2**

Submitted for Council approval was a application and certificate for payment #2 from Project One who is doing the remodel on the Community Center. Motion to approve payment #2 for \$87,875.00 was made by Shane Hagstrom and second by Brian Carlson and passed with everyone voting in favor.

**EAST ROAD SEWER PROJECT – VOSS PLUMBING**

Mayor Olson submitted the bill from Voss Plumbing for reconstructing the manhole on East Road, everyone seems satisfied with the work done, the bill is for \$36,363.50. The motion to pay the bill for Voss was made by Shane Hagstrom and seconded by Tony Holtz.

**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: June 6, 2023 (Checks numbers 31754-31794 for \$ 464,381.78. Mid-month bills paid on June 23, 2023, were check numbers 31795 through 31823 for \$ 25,849.93.

A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Tony Holtz at 9:04 p.m.

---

Goldie Smith  
City Clerk/Treasurer