

**MARCH 6, 2023
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, March 6, 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 Deb Fredrick and Connie Halvorson from Atwater Area Help for Seniors, Jake Hay from New Energy Equity, resident Cecila Kurtz 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 February 6, 2023, was motioned for approval by Deb Mickle second by Brian Carlson. Motion carried unanimously.

FRERICKS AND HALVORSON – ATWATER AREA HELP FOR SENIORS

Frericks came to speak about the using the senior dining room as a office space. Lutheran Social Services has the Public Health food license for that space, it has been grandfathered and we will lose that space if we change it. And would lose our food for senior program. Through COVID it has been used to package the meals and delivered after 9:30. They are wanting to expand the program for Lunch and Learn which they want to do monthly. It is also used for exercise program, and they are hoping to move bingo and cards back to the community center soon. Last year they delivered over 3000 meals.

JAKE HAY FROM NEW ENERGY EQUITY (FORMALY IPS)

Hay distributed the thick Atwater Project Summary packet. The only change is they need an additional half an acre. Motion to approve the build to expand from 8.5 acres to 9.2 acres was motioned by Carlson and second by Holtz. Motion carried by everyone voting in favor. The project will begin with a 75-foot setback from the gravel road. A decommission fund of \$150,000 will be set aside. Most of the panels and poles will be recyclable. They hope to keep as many trees as possible to create a buffer zone. The area will be planted with various wildflowers and beekeepers are welcome to place hives around the area. Construction will begin the winter of 2023/2024.

SPENCER JOHNSON – BOLTON MENK – UPDATE LINCON STREET

Spencer Johnson explained to the council that during the North Street Project the storm sewer is not deep enough to meet the design requirements, so he wants to add one block of Orchard. They will get sewer and blacktop adding \$207,845.16 with a new total of \$8,631,752.99. Motion made by Brian Carlson made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-16 adding Orchard and asking for preparation of report. Motion was second by Deb Mickle and was passed with everyone voting in favor. Hagstrom then made the motion to hold the public hearing for the Orchard residents on April 3, 2023 during the regular city council meeting. Resolution 2023-17 was second by Holtz, it passed with everyone voting in favor.

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Spencer Johnson then submitted the final payment due to ASTECH Corporation for crack sealing for \$ 84,420.65. All the papers are signed by ASTECH, motion to pay the final bill was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Hagstrom. Motioned carried with everyone voting in favor. Spencer Johnson said that Kandiyohi County will need to be billed for their portion of County Road 57 (downtown) for approximately \$17,000. Motion to forward the bill to Kandiyohi County was made by Holtz and seconded by Deb Mickle. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. There was no update on the Well testing available at this time.

CECILA KURTZ – MOSQUITO SPRAYING

Kurtz had a question if the City would consider switching the spray to one that is nontoxic. She brought a brochure of some examples. The current spray chemical sheet says it is toxic to people, pets, and other living beings. She also asked instead of doing weekly sprays just spray before special events in that area only. Make sure people get rid of the debris in their yard so there is no place for mosquitoes to hang out and/or breed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ross Johnson reviewed the February 2023 Police Report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Chad Busskohl distributed the new bylaws for the Council to review. The biggest change is how fire personal are hired. He reviewed the pay increase he asked for during December budgets. He forgot to take into account the officer pay. There was a lot of discussion about who has more responsibilities and training and how they should be reimbursed. No decisions were made and will be discussed at a later meeting.

MAINTENANCE/PARKS DEPARTMENT

Jason Johnson informed the Council that he will be taking the sewer test this week for his Class D Wastewater license.

CLERKS DEPARTMENT

Clerk Smith reminded the Council that the Board of Appeal and Equalization is on Thursday, April 6th at 6 pm. We have two qualified sitting council members to oversee the meeting. A request from Southwest Initiative for \$250 was read by the Clerk. A motion to approve the request for \$250 donation was made by Hagstrom and second by Brian Carlson. Motion carried with everyone voting unanimously.

MN DOT - SWEEPING AGGREMENT 2023

Motion to approve the agreement was made by Brian Carlson and second by Holtz. Motion carried with everyone voting unanimously. Clerk Smith will forward the signed agreement.

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RESOLUTION 2023-15 JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH BCA

The agreement is done every five years. A motion to accept the agreement was made by was motioned by Deb Mickle and second by Holtz. Motion carried with a unanimous vote in favor.

RENEW SAFE ASSURE PROGRAM

Motion to approve the renewal of the Safe Assure program for \$2377.06 for the year 2023 was made by Deb Mickle and second by Brian Carlson. Motion approved with unanimous vote.

2022 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WATER REPORT

Smith submitted for council review the 2022 Water Report, we used 30,820,000 gallons. Well #1 provided 15% of the water and Well # 4 provided 85%. Unaccounted water loss was 6.9% which is an acceptable percentage for the DNR (under 10%). Residents used 25.3 million gallons the rest was commercial, the Hormel Feed Mill and smaller miscellaneous users.

OFF-PREMISES LIQUOR LICENSE

Motion was introduced by Hagstrom to approve a off premises liquor permit for Saturday, March 25, 2023 for the Fire Relief Association Gala to be held at the Community Center. Motion was seconded by Brian Carlson. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor.

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 Brian Carlson. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: March 3, 2023 (Checks numbers 31600-31631 for \$ 290,723.80. Mid-month bills paid on March 20th, 2023, were check numbers 31632 through 31662 for \$ 28,685.03.

A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Deb Mickle at 8:47 p.m.

Goldie Smith
City Clerk/Treasurer