

**FEBRUARY 5, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, February 5, 2024, 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 Adam Bosch, Dick Bosch, Tony and Valores Anderson all from the Atwater Threshers, Cari Danielson and Conner Danielson from the Atwater Karters, Greg Tauer with the Atwater Lions group, Dale Tagtow and Logan Whitcomb and Spencer Johnson, Robin Caufman and Sarah Swedburg from Bolton and Menk.

Representing the city departments was Police Chief Ross Johnson, Fire Chief Chad Busskohl, Assistant Fire Chief Mike Smith, Jason Johnson Head of Maintenance department.

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2023, were motioned for approval by Brian Carlson and Deb Mickle. Motion carried unanimously.

**VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS USING THE BRUSH SITE**

Bosch asked if there were any prices yet from the chloride company. Mayor Olson told him there aren't any yet. This year they not only want to do the township road but also into the brush site.

They then discussed the fencing situation. The maintenance department tried to contain the "brush site" area due to the abuse – unwanted or not brush site material being left out at the site. The barricade was not agreed upon so it will be taken down. Threshers want to put in a gate to help alleviate this problem. The city will replace some fencing that had come to the end of it purpose next spring. The purpose is keep people from going in the back way.

Next they wanted to discuss the lease the Threshers and Lions Club have with the city. He read the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Council meeting where the lease was about to expire that April. The council motioned and approved extending the lease to April 29 of 2030. The Threshers are in good standing.

**SPENCER JOHNSON – BOLTON & MENK - UPDATE**

Spencer introduced Robin Caufman and Sarah Swedburg from the St. Cloud office. They were there to discuss the proposal for establishing a Comprehensive plan and updating the Planning and Zoning ordinance book. It would cover land use, housing, public infrastructure and utilities, parks and trails, and Economic Development. It would take approximately a year to complete the process with a fee of \$60,825. The council will consider the project.

Next Spencer told the council that the bids for the North Side Street Project will be opening on Wednesday, February 14 at 2 pm. The council can attend if they want to. He reported that 14 copies of the plans had been given out. A review will be given at the March meeting. There needs to be a pedestrian archeological survey on the Delit Outdoor property to keep things moving along.

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**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Jason Johnson submitted two quotes to replace the water meter at Dan Rousers apartment, Ferguson was \$1097.31. Motion made by Hagstrom to purchase from Ferguson and second by Brian Carlson and voted on unanimously. Next was a quote from Pollardwater for a meter with back flow preventer and lock for the fire hydrant used to sell water to various contractors for \$1804.25. Motion to purchase the meter was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Deb Mickle. Motion carried unanimously.

DNR called and told Jason to turn off the aerator, they stated the fish should be okay – there is enough oxygen in the water. Skip will be taking the sewer test in October; he has passed his water test. Mayor Olson told the Council that Wellhouse #4 steel door is rusted and needs to be replaced. A quote from Brian Hovey to use existing frame and install for smaller door for \$1185.46 or tear out metal frame for commercial door for \$2100. A motion was made by Brian Carlson and seconded by Tony Holtz to spend \$1185.46. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. Lastly, he reported that the backhoe radiator is leaking. He has ordered a new radiator.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Johnson quickly went over the January 2024 Emergency Services Report. He has received two applications for part time officer. First is Tom Fread who comes from KCSO (at Step 2) and Breanna Buboltz (at step 1). Motion made by Deb Mickle and seconded by Brian Carlson to hire both Deputies. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**FIRE/AMBULANCE REPORT**

Fire Chief Chad Busskohl told the council that the FEMA grant applied for turn out gear for 25 sets at \$4500 for boots, gloves, coat and pants. A total of \$112,500 is being applied for with the city being responsible for 5% or 10% or up to \$11,250. The motion to proceed with the grant writer costs of \$1200 was motioned by Brian Carlson and second by Tony Holtz.

**EDA REPORT**

Hagstrom said they have 2 applications for loans to be reviewed. They are looking at improving the downtown area and the Hwy 12 corridor.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AID FOR 2024**

Clerk Smith asked the council to clarify how much each department would receive. The motion was made by Carlson and second by Hagstrom to split even between fire, ambulance, and police departments. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor.

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**DANCE PERMIT FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Motion made by Hagstrom to approve the dance permit for October 12, 2024, to Melissa Whitcomb for a wedding. Motion to approve was made by Hagstrom and seconded by Deb Mickle. Motion carried with every voting in favor.

**WAGES FOR 2024**

The steps are 2.5% and 3% cost of living increase. Motion by Brian Carlson to approve the 3% COLA thus making it 5.5% in total. The addition of licenses would be added to the maintenance department salary. Motion seconded by Hagstrom. Motion carried by everyone.

The next supervisor meeting will be March 25, at 2pm.

**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 Hagstrom. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: February 6, 2024 (Checks numbers 32253-32266 for \$ 138,946.19 and Mid-month bills paid on February 16, 2024, were check numbers 32277 through 32266 for \$ 23,299.15 all approved by the finance committee.

A motion was made to adjourn by Hagstrom and second by Deb Mickle at 8:38 p.m.

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Goldie Smith  
City Clerk/Treasurer