

**JULY 1, 2024**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Atwater City Hall by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Shane Hagstrom, Deb Mickle and Anthony Holtz. Visitors at the meeting were Melissa Wenzel from Mn River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) and Deb Friedrichs from AAHS, Brent and Joelene Garberich, resident Allen Walther and Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

Representing the city departments was Chief Ross Johnson, and Fire Chief Chad Busskohl.

The minutes of the Juen 2, 2024, regular meeting was motioned for approval by Brian Calrson and seconded by Deb Mickle, motion was approved unanimously.

**MELISSA WENTZEL FROM MN RAAA AND DEB FRIEDRICHS - AAHS**

Wentzel appeared before the council the council to explain a grant for the senior program to become more senior friendly. It is for city's under 2000 and assess through a survey to identify assets and needs in the community. Grant will be up to \$10,000. Some funds have gone to handicapped accessibility, intergenerational coordinator was hired to do programs for all ages, purchase equipment for outdoor movies, sidewalks for accessible parks, park benches meant for gathering and conversation. They need 6 to 10 people to meet once a month for an hour as a Community Leadership Team, Brian Carlson volunteered to be on the team. Wentzel added if anyone else is interested in being on the team – contact Atwater Help for Seniors.

**SPENCER JOHNSON – BOLTON AND MENK**

Spencer introduced the pay application #1 to C & L Excavating for \$717,703.35 for the time period from April 5<sup>th</sup> to June 21, 2024. Motion to approve the payment was made by Shane Hagstrom and second by Brian Carlson. Motion approved. The draw will be started against the loans on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Next was discussed the resolution 2024-19 rate increases for 2025 and 2026. Final recommendations were \$22.50 per month for water base rate, \$4.50 per thousand gallons water, lead and copper fees will remain the same and tank reserve will go up to \$60 a year. On the sewer side the base rate will be \$12 per month and usage at \$3.20 per thousand gallons.

For 2026 the numbers will be \$29.25 per month for water base, \$5.85 per thousand gallons for usage and \$72 per year for water tower reserve. The sewer base rate will be \$18 per month and \$4.80 per thousand gallons for sewer. The water tank reserve will go up to \$72 in 2026 The motion was made by Deb Mickle to pass Resolution 2024-19 and was seconded by Brian Carlson and pass with a unanimous vote.

The council had to set a date to have a special meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm to sign the loan agreement during that meeting. The meeting will be posted. Spencer then went over the letter from MN DNR dated June 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the preliminary Well Construction assessment for well #5. It is a formality required when putting in a new well. In addition to the assessment report he reviewed the other from the DNR dated June 28<sup>th</sup> updating the 2017 Water Supply

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Plan. The six-page report is a temporary fix and now the entire Supply Plan needs to be updated and submitted to the DNR at the beginning of 2026. It is necessary to proceed for any funding.

The last item is a letter from MN Department of Health explaining that they have approved a grant for replacing up to 22 lines if lead is found during the Northside Construction project. Money will come from a small grant and only can be used in the project area. This project would require a plumber and a change order for the project. Next construction meeting will be July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Johnson explained that the radar in the squad car is broken, he is sending it in to be looked at. There was a long discussion about ATV rules and how they are being abused by underage drivers. The actual ordinance and ATV manual will be at the next council meeting. They discussed for a short time a sign for no ATV in the park. He also distributed the June Emergency services report.

**FIRE/AMBULANCE REPORT**

Busskohl told the council that Brian, Goldie and he applied for another grant for radios. The city portion is \$2402 which would be covered by the amount in the budget. Brian informed the council that they have 2 applications for EMT.

**CLERKS REPORT**

Smith circulated around the table the June check summary register and the payment list for tonight's bills for the meeting. She next asked if the 8 days of vacation could be carried over since Elizabeth left in March and Shannon didn't start until June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There hasn't been time to take any time off. Motion was made by Deb Mickle and second by Holtz to allow her to carry it over. Motion passed. If this would happen again to any other employee, it would be a case-by-case decision. The State Demographer estimated Atwater, our city's population, at 1096.

**RESOLUTION 2024-20 TO APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES**

Motion was made by Brian Carlson and second by Holtz to pass Resolution 2024-20 to appoint the 10 election judges for the Primary in August and the General election in November. The motion passed with unanimous vote.

**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 Holtz. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: July 3, 2024 (Checks numbers 3232537-32572 for \$ 186,776.68 and Mid-month bills paid on July \_\_\_\_, 2024, were check numbers \_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_, \_\_. \_\_ all approved by the finance committee.

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A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Holtz at 9:20 p.m.

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Goldie Smith  
City Clerk/Treasurer