

**MAY 6, 2024**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was called to order on Monday, May 6, 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 Brian Hovey and Mike Kingery from the Atwater Baseball Association, Eric Day from Mid Minnesota Development, Jim Olson, Dale Tagtow, David and Megan Morrison, lastly Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

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

**BRIAN HOVEY AND MIKE KINGERY – ATWATER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

Brain Hovey gave the history of the Baseball Association dating back to 1932 with a team in the state tournament. Their push for the next years is to build a new grandstand with a roof, install a new scoreboard on Kingery and install sprinkler system on Johnson Little League field and also install the scoreboard from Kingery for Johnson field to use. The goal is to raise \$300,000 to complete all these projects. The grandstand will be wood frame and will use the 150 Metrodome seats being stored in the old depot. Hagstrom, mention he has \$50,000 in reserve for a new back stop in the budget. The first project they are considering is the grandstand.

**ERIC DAY FROM MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Day went through and explained that a comprehensive plan is planning for a city's expansion, meeting the needs of today's population and tomorrows. It would cover land use, housing, economic development, transportation and mobility, public utilities, parks and recreation, education, and city services. The plan would span 10 years for the community and would begin with a group of local citizens from different groups. Surveys and one on one discussions would occur to find out the needs and wants of the community. They have time after July 4<sup>th</sup> to start the process. The cost to the city would be approximately \$20,900.

**DAVID AND MEGAN MORRIONS- PLAT APPROVAL**

Now that the sewer connection for the house was resolved at the Special meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> that a grinder with a lift station would need to be installed to get the sewer to the city's main. Motion to approve the plan for Morrison Meadow Plat was made by Carlson and second by Holtz. Motion carried unanimously. Hagstrom abstained from the vote.

**JIM OLSON – RESIDENT ON LINCOLN**

Olson came to the meeting to voice his concern that the road has been closed since the water main break on Lincoln and not repaired. Hagstrom explained that the skid steer sunk while it was up there trying to prepare the ground. Mayor Olson said Mother Nature needs to do her job in leveling the soil and compacting it. He preferred the barricades to staying on the street.

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**RESOLUTION 2024-14 COMMITTING TO CERTAIN FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM**

Resolution 2024-14 after discussion and concern about having to raise water rates, the motion was made to pass it by Deb Mickle and seconded by Shane Hagstrom. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2024-15 COMMITTING TO CERTAIN FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE CLEAN WATER SYSTEM (SEWER)**

Resolution 2024-15 the motion was made to pass it by Brian Carlson and seconded by Tony Holtz. Motion carried with everyone voting in favor. This will help make the city eligible for grant funding.

**SPENCER JOHNSON – BOLTON AND MENK**

After passing the resolutions for the North Side project Spencer updated the council that the project is going well, and underground construction started one and half weeks ago.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Johnson read the April Emergency Services Report. He then asked permission to purchase 2 taxers through Axon via the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office. Cost would be a current year of \$4676. Tasers are good for 46 months. One would be in the office and the other available to those who do not have one through the Sheriff's department. Motion to approve the purchase was made by Brian Carlson and second by Tony Holtz. Motion carried.

**FIRE/AMBULANCE REPORT**

The Fire department will be doing a controlled burn (June 22) out at St John to demolish their old school building. This will be a training exercise for the department, plus other departments will be there. Busskohl came back to the council to have clarification on the Fire Bylaws. Both Ryan Zill and Matt Nelson have not made enough fire calls and bylaws call for them to be dismissed from the fire department for the past two years (2021/2022). Busskohl doesn't want them off the department because numbers are down to 24 firefighters. Hagstrom referred to the city's personal handbook. They should have been given an oral reprimand, then a written reprimand, with directions to correct the violation of the department. If not corrected, they then are on unpaid leave. The final action would be to dismiss them from the department. Busskohl then couldn't remember if they were given a written reprimand or not, he would go back to the office to look for the paperwork.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Johnson approached the council with a problem at the wellhouse by the Community Center. After an inspection from Minnesota Department of Health, the door on the well site is not secure enough. They want it framed in and a door with the lock replaced. He brought two

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quotes, the first was from 201 Building Supply in Grove City for \$2046.72, second quote was from Brian Hovey for \$1941.30. Motion to accept the Brian Hovey quote for \$1941.30 was motioned by Hagstrom and second by Deb Mickle. Motion carried. Next, he brought two quotes for transfer switch at the Community Center to power the electricity by generator. The first quote was from Ryan Buer Electric for \$6,990 and second quote was from Barker Electric for \$6325.00. Motion to approve Barker Electric for \$6325 was made by Hagstrom and seconded by Deb Mickle. Motion carried. Hagstrom added to have the project finished by Festival days in case of storms.

**PARKS**

Parks are open and running at full steam. The baseball diamonds, park shelter and disc golf were all in use the other night. There is an issue with handicap access in the park bathroom. He discussed changing the summer recreation pay to an hourly instead of salary. He also would be hiring the lawn mowing position.

**CLERKS REPORT**

Smith made sure everyone had a copy of the 2023 Drinking Water Report. It is already posted on the website and the link will be in the July newsletter. Atwater UMC has requested that the alley be reopened between Dakota and the school. Motion was made by Hagstrom and seconded by Deb Mickle to reopen the alley. Motion Carried.

She received a call from West Central Sanitation asking if the city is going to do a clean up this spring. Hagstrom will work on a flyer with Chief Johnson. She then ran through the spreadsheet to explain debt payment and the revenue needed to pay them.

Deb Mickle informed the council that we received 3 applications. Mickle and Smith interviewed two of the prospective people, Mickle gave a quick review of each of their qualifications. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Brian Carlson to offer the position of office clerk/utility billing clerk to Chris Ransom at 22.36 an hour and if she should decline then offer to Shannon Remmel at \$20.07 an hour. Motion was seconded by Deb Mickle. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2024-17 TO DECLARE BREANNA BUBOLTZ TO PERA**

Motion was made by Hagstrom and second by Mickle to pass Resolution 2024-17, with the motion passing in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2024-18 TO DECLARE THOMAS FREAD TO PERA**

Motion was made by Brian Carlson and second by Hagstrom to pass Resolution 2024-18 to add Officer Thomas Fread to the Minnesota PERA. Motion approved.

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**LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR LMCIT**

The Motion was made by Hagstrom to not wave the monetary limits through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Motion second by Brian Carlson and carried with everyone voting in favor.

**WORKSHOP**

Mayor Olson asked the council to hold a workshop to discuss the proposal for the comprehensive plan and comp time.

**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: May 8, 2024 (Checks numbers 32416-32444 for \$ 114,325.48 and Mid-month bills paid on May17, 2024, were check numbers 32445 through 32469 for \$ 32,329.33 all approved by the finance committee.

A motion was made to adjourn by Brian Carlson and second by Deb Mickle at 9:34 p.m.

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Goldie Smith  
City Clerk/Treasurer