

**JANUARY 6, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING**

The only regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Atwater City Council was scheduled for January 6th, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Atwater City Hall by Mayor Mark Olson. Council members present were Brian Carlson, Shane Hagstrom, Bruce Anderson, Anthony Holtz and Shane Hagstrom. Visitors at the meeting were Deb Friedrichs from Atwater Help to Seniors, AJ Walther, and Spencer Johnson from Bolton and Menk.

Representing the city departments were Police Chief Ross Johnson, Fire Chief Brian Carlson, and Jason Johnson.

Clerk/Treasurer Smith then swore in the new and reelected: Mayor Mark Olson, councilpersons Shane Hagstrom and Bruce Anderson.

The minutes of the November 14, 2024, Board of Canvas meeting was motioned for approval by Brian Carlson and seconded by Shane Hagstrom, motion was approved unanimously. Minutes of the December 2, 2024

**2025 APPOINTMENT AND RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 2025-01 Official depositors – harvest bank M/Brian Carlson S/Hagstrom – carried.  
Resolution 2025-02 Council President Pro Tem – Shane Hagstrom M/Holtz S/Carlson – carried.  
Resolution 2025-03 Official newspaper – West Central Tribune M/Hagstrom S/Holtz – carried.  
Resolution 2025-04 Insurance agent -Steve Lueders M/Hagstrom S/Carlson – carried.  
Resolution 2025-05 Jim Solhied as Building Inspector M/Carlson S/Anderson – carried.  
Resolution 2025-06 Approve mid-month bills M/Hagstrom S/Anderson – carried.

**DEB FRIEDRICHS OF ATWATER HELP FOR SENIORS**

Friedrichs appeared before the council with concerns over Sunnyview not using the whole house up to its potential. With 11 bedrooms and only 5 residents living there her fear is that it will be shut down due to lack of use. She understands there are some draw backs to Sunnyview that they can't offer that larger Senior Living complexes can. She was wondering if opening a dialog with the owner, they City of Atwater and Atwater Help for Seniors could help keep more Atwater Seniors here in Atwater instead of transferring out to Willmar or New London.

Hagstrom offered to pen a letter to the owner and possibly we could have them at a workshop.

**SPENCER JOHNSON FROM BOLTON AND MENK –UPDATES**

He informed the council that the ad for the construction of the Wellhouse on Minnesota has run and will be opened on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. He is looking for the purchase agreement. After bids are open the city will have to decide on whether to proceed with the project. Final decision is when we get bids back and the calculated and submitted to the council. Spencer Johnson stated construction wouldn't begin until last fall of 2025.

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Johnson reviewed the December Emergency Services report. He praised the turn out for the Passport to Christmas parade. He did have a concern about people parking on Third Street South around the School. Especially in the evening while the gym is being used. Parents are parking in the “NO PARKING” zone waiting for their child to come out of the gym after practice. Hagstrom, Ross Johnson, Jason Johnson and Kodi Goracke will meet to see if a solution can be arrived at before a problem arises.

Mayor Mark Olson asked if the police department could get rid of the “curb side” free give aways. They shouldn’t be out there for more than 24 or 48 hours. Chief Johnson would see to the task.

**FIRE/AMBULANCE REPORT**

Chief Brian Carlson explained that he is sorting the office at the fire hall and hitting his stride as new Fire Chief. He talked about the Ambulance grant that was in the agenda packet. The city received \$57,296.48 in December. The items it can be spent on were listed in the packet. He has assembled a committee of Ambulance personal to help decided the top priorities need on the Ambulance. He will submit the list from the committee for suggestions.

In fire news they need to purchase a new chain saw for the department. He has a quote from Mike’s Smal Engine in Willmar for \$744 for contractor grade. Motion to accept the quote and purchase the chain saw was made by Shane Hagstrom and seconded by Bruce Anderson. Motion carried unanimously. Brian Carlson read his roster of appointments.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Jason informed the council that the mixer in the water tower that we purchased two years ago is shot. The water tower company is sending a new one on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The tower will have to be drained, and the giant ice cube melted before they can install the mixer. The process will take 3 days. The control issues at the water tower have been fixed temporarily by Mark Dykes. He will be sending a proposal with suggested upgrades needed and an annual inspection.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Hagstrom shared a quote from Daktonics out of Brookings, SD for two PanaView scoreboards. First is a 9’4” by 36’ scoreboard for \$29,581 for Kingery field and a second scoreboard 5’ by 36’ for Gordy Johnson Little League field. Total estimate is \$47,969 not including installation – which the Atwater Baseball Association will be paying. Motion to accept the state bid for \$47,969 was motioned by Shane Hagstrom and seconded by Bruce Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

They have a new application for the Rural Development Revolving loan fund. They are also raising the rent on the current tenants closer to equal based on square footage.

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**CLERKS REPORT**

Clerk Smith shared that the December check list and cashflow are contained in the agenda. She then shared a letter from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission explaining that we can't shut off renters because the landlord wants them out. On the back was a notice from Xcel Energy with a notice of increase electric rates application. Next was a letter from Faye Lien – Kandiyohi County Assessor office for notice of annual Board of Review and Equalization in April. Council would accept any date they pick. Smith will call her and confirm. Lastly, she has a letter from Westberg and Eischens for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024 single audit. Financial Statement Audit will be \$19,375 and Federal compliance audit \$3,000; State reporting form will cost \$375. Motion to accept the audit was made by Brian Carlson and second by Bruce Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

**LETTER FROM MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The letter read that sample collected November 20, 2024, results were 10.00 mg/L. Mayor Olson said when it reaches 10.4 a letter will need to be issued to the residents informing them of the Nitrate level.

**2025 ATWATER AMBULANCE RATES**

After some deliberation with suggestion from Neil at Metro-Area Ambulance Service a motion was made by Brian Carlson to go to \$16.00 per mile and a \$900 base Basic Life Support rate. Motion was seconded by Tony Holtz and approved with everyone voting in favor.

**2024 REPORT FOR OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS**

Clerk Smith presented the indebtedness form last year debt on December 31, 2023, was \$1,876,778. This year we added three bonds for the 2024 street project of \$ 7,851,000. The grand total is now \$11,714,778 for December 31, 2024. This information is gathered every year by the county auditor's office.

**2025 SAFE ASSURE – SAFETY TRAINING FOR 2025**

Motion to approve the 2025 SafeAssure safety program for 2025 costing \$2521.83 was made by Tony Holtz and second by Brian Carlson. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk Smith will forward the agreement with the mayor's signature.

**2025 DANCE PERMITS FOR THE HANDELBAR AT 308 ATLANTIC AVE**

Tony Holtz made the motion to approve the yearly dance permit for the HandleBar located at 208 Atlantic Ave. As to specific dates the HandleBar needs to notify the Chief of Police about the dates and times. Motion was then second by Brian Carlson. Motion carried unanimously.

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**LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA VISIT TO NEW LONDON**

The council was invited to attend a League of Minnesota Cities visit to New London on January 22 from 9:30 to 10:30 at the new city hall. It will be an informal meeting with staff from the League.

**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 Shane Hagstrom. Motion carried authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to make such disbursements: January 7, 2025 (Electronic funds transfer #2052e and 2053e with Checks numbers 32969 to check number 32978 for \$ 7425.04 and Mid-month bills paid on January 21, 2025, were check numbers 32979 through 33006 for \$185,976.64 all approved by the finance committee.

A motion was made to adjourn by Bruce Anderson and second by Shane Hagstrom 8:13 p.m.

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Goldie Smith  
City Clerk/Treasurer