

**MINUTES OF THE
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 22, 2011**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the Watertown City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 22, 2011** by Mayor K. J. McDonald in the Watertown City Hall Council Chambers.

Upon roll call the following Council Members were present: McDonald, Stephen Crowder, and Nicholas Hoese. Council Members Rick Mann and Michael Walters were absent.

The following staff members were present: City Administrator Luke Fischer, City Engineer Dave Martini and Finance Director/City Clerk-Treasurer Steven Wallner.

Also present were: Charlotte Johnson.

2. ADOPT AGENDA

HOESE MOVED, CROWDER SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

3. REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to approve minutes for the March 4, 2011 Emergency City Council meeting
- B. Motion to approve minutes for the March 8, 2011 City Council meeting
- C. Motion to accept final payment for 2010 Paul Avenue improvements from ISD 111
- D. Motion to approve Pay Request from MNSPECT
- E. Motion to approve Pay Request from Melchert, Hubert, Sjodin

HOESE MOVED, CROWDER SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

4. OPEN FORUM

5. CELEBRATE WATERTOWN

- A. American Legion donation for flood relief

Hoese stated that he contacted the Watertown American Legion Post 121 for a donation to help residents who needed sand to fill sand bags to protect their homes from flooding. The Legion agreed to donate \$2,000 for sand for residents of the city. Residents will still have to pay for the sand bags. The Council and Staff thanked Hoese for his efforts.

6. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

A. Downtown Street Lighting Proposals

Fischer presented the Council with information on lighting quotes for downtown redevelopment project. The City received three quotes, but one was not completed. Staff created a pro forma of each proposal based on quoted capital costs, assumed operations costs and assumed life of the fixtures. Capital costs were lower in the City owned and operated model as compared to Xcel Energy by more than \$10,000. Over the life of the street light, projections show that the City could save approximately \$100 per light fixture through the city owned and operated model. The two companies being considered were Roy's Electric of Watertown and Design Electric of St. Cloud. Roy's Electric also presented an LED option. Design Electric's quote was \$40,256. Roy's Electric's quote was \$41,433.20 for Lumec fixtures and \$46,033.20 for LED fixtures. The advantage of the LED lights are they require less energy and less maintenance than the standard street lights.

McDonald stated that he preferred the LED option but was concerned about them not matching the downtown lights which are not as bright in color. Hoese stated that he preferred to have the entire Council present to discuss the options.

HOESE MOVED TO TABLE THE TOPIC UNTIL THE APRIL 12, 2011 COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

B. Delinquent Utility Billing

Wallner presented information on those residents who have delinquent utility bills and face the possibility of having their water shut off due to non-payment.

CROWDER MOVED, HOESE SECONDED A MOTION TO HAVE CITY STAFF CONTACT RESIDENTS WITH DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS FOR PAYMENT AND BRING THE RESULTS BACK TO THE COUNCIL APRIL 12, 2011. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

C. Spring Flooding Update

Fischer presented information about the recent flood data for the Crow River. He stated that the most recent projection from the National Weather Service is for the Crow River to crest at 17.3 feet this weekend in Watertown. He stated that the city received quotes on materials and staff has recommended going with Gridor Construction for a two-foot high permanent berm between the wastewater treatment plant and the Crow River. Fischer stated the cost of this 700 foot long berm would be \$20,000 and could be built in two days. McDonald stated that it would be better to error on the side of safety and build the berm than wait to see if the projections are wrong. Hoese stated he was upset because in his opinion the city's responsibility is to protect every citizen and the city is delaying until the last minute to build the berm. He stated that to have the berm built in two days is asking a lot. Hoese stated that the city knew the flood was coming and to be making the decision now to build the berm is not right. Martini stated that \$20,000 may seem like a lot to spend but it becomes a matter of risk management. He stated that if the decision was made a month ago to build the berm and the river came only to 14 feet, would the cost be an appropriate

use of funds. He stated that it is difficult to understand the true impact of the issue when the river elevations keep changing. He stated there is a fine line between panicking and being proactive. Fischer stated that staff has been gathering as much information as possible so the Council can make an accurate decision. Resident Charlotte Johnson stated there should be no reason to discuss the issue, but go ahead and do what needs to be done to protect the wastewater treatment plant.

MCDONALD MOVED, HOESE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FROM GRIDOR CONSTRUCTION FOR \$20,000 TO BUILD A TWO-FOOT HIGH BERM TO HELP PROTECT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORT**

8. **CONSULTANTS' REPORT**

9. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

10. **COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT**

A. McDonald thanked the high school students, Sentence to Serve people and Council Member Hoese for helping to fill sand bags last week. Fischer stated that 3000 sand bags were filled in three hours. Hoese asked if the sand paid for by the Legion had been ordered. He stated that it was his understanding that sand was going to be ordered and delivered after the donation was approved. Fischer stated that the city had enough sand to handle requests so far from residents and businesses. He stated that the contractor told him he could deliver as much sand as the city needed within 24 hours. Fischer stated that the city has been deducting the cost of the sand from the amount given by the Legion. Hoese stated that any money left should be returned to the Legion. McDonald stated that he didn't think the Legion would take the money back but would probably ask that the money be used for another city project. Fischer stated that the amount of sand that \$2,000 would buy would take about 20 truckloads. He stated that he didn't think the city would have room to store that much sand and keep it dry. Wallner stated that he thought it would be more prudent to order the sand as it was needed. He stated that the generous donation from the Legion was being separated and used only for flood relief and any money left over could be carried over to be used in future years for flood relief.

B. Hoese asked for a report from Public Works on how they were going to trim the extra fuel costs from the budget.

11. **STAFF REPORTS**

D. Finance Director

1. Approve Claims Roster/Voucher List

CROWDER MOVED, HOESE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS ROSTER/VOUCHER LIST. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 PM.

ATTEST:

Steven Wallner
Clerk-Treasurer

KJ McDonald
Mayor