

**MINUTES OF THE  
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 11, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Watertown City Council was called to order at 6:17 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 11, 2011** by Mayor K. J. McDonald in the Watertown City Hall Council Chambers to honor and award certificates to those organizations and individuals who volunteered for the Adopt-A-Park Program. The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

The following staff members were present: City Administrator Luke Fischer, Senior Planner Crystal Paumen and City Engineer David Martini.

Also present: Charlotte Johnson

**2. ADOPT AGENDA**

**CROWDER MOVED, MANN SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

**3. REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Motion to review and approve minutes from the regular City Council meeting September 27, 2011
- B. Motion to review minutes from the Economic Development Authority meeting September 15, 2011
- C. Motion to approve Fire Department request for election process
- D. Motion to approve pay request from MNSPECT

**CROWDER MOVED, MANN SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

**4. OPEN FORUM**

**5. CELEBRATE WATERTOWN**

- A. Hoese stated that the Fire Department is celebrating Fire Prevention Week
- B. McDonald stated that the new fence installed by Hecksel on the extension of Lewis Avenue looks terrific.
- C. Fischer thanked the Watertown Lions who cleaned up the river along the boardwalk in town.

**6. NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Review and discuss EDA Downtown Loan Program

Fischer updated the Council on the revolving loan program the EDA is creating to support facade improvements in town. The purpose of the program is to add value to the downtown commercial buildings and provide an incentive for property owners to further invest in the community. The funding for the program comes from the EDA's levy and proceeds from the Small Cities Development Program. The EDA has built a fund balance of approximately \$130,000 which it will draw down as part of the new loan program. The EDA is working on finalizing the program details, but has conceptually focused on providing up to \$5,000 in loan funds at 3% interest and \$2,500 in grant funds. The property owner would be required to invest \$15,000 personal funds to access the full \$7,500 offered by the EDA.

Mann, who is chairman of the EDA, stated that the goal of the program is to have property owners reinvest in the downtown. He stated that there are three persons who are currently interested in the program. McDonald stated that the program enhances job opportunities and the money is spent locally to improve the community.

**MCDONALD MOVED, CROWDER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EDA'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT FACADE IMPROVEMENTS. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- B. Review and discuss partnership with the Watertown Lions for grant application

Paumen stated that the Park Commission has ranked Highland Park as the top priority for replacing playground equipment in the city and would like to pursue a partnership with the Lions Club to fund park projects as they arise. She stated that there was support from the Lions Club to help with the building of the project if the funding does become available for eligible 501(c)(4) organizations.

**MANN MOVED, HOESE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE WATERTOWN LIONS CLUB TO SEEK GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AT HIGHLAND PARK. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

7. **COMMITTEE REPORT**

8. **CONSULTANTS' REPORT**

- A. City Engineer

1. Review and consider Lewis Avenue Extension curbing

Martini investigated a request made at the last council meeting about placing a bituminous wedge along the gutter line this fall to protect the gutter from plow damage this winter. He received a quote from Wm. Mueller & Sons of \$8,560 for approximately 1,600 feet of curbing to be protected. Martini stated that he had a concern that the edge line painted on both sides of the road would be covered up by the wedge and that it would be more cost effective to make curb repairs in the spring if necessary. He does not recommend putting in the bituminous wedge. Hoese asked why the wedge wasn't put in the original bidding process. Martini stated that the city could have received a better price, but he said it was hard to justify putting in the wedge.

**WALTERS MOVED, HOESE SECONDED A MOTION TO FORGO PUTTING IN THE BITUMINOUS WEDGE ON THE EXTENSION OF LEWIS AVENUE AS PER THE CITY ENGINEER'S RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

9. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- A. McDonald stated that he had attended school meetings about the upcoming levy referendum. The school district is sending out information on the referendum. McDonald suggested that people be sure to read the information and become informed about the referendum prior to Election Day Nov. 8.
- B. McDonald stated that a poll taken showed that 79% of the people are disappointed with Congress and consider them to be dysfunctional. McDonald stated that Congress is actually functioning as it should with debate and disagreement. He stated that the checks and balances system is working.

Charlotte Johnson stated that the office of mayor should be non-political and the mayor should not express his beliefs at a council meeting. McDonald stated that he disagreed and stated that every council meeting is political.

10. **COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT**

11. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. City Administrator

Fischer stated that there was a minor gas leak reported on Nixon Avenue during the third week of September. He stated that it took three days for Xcel to locate the source, but it did not pose a risk to public safety. He stated that city staff is working with Xcel to be sure the restoration work is done correctly.

D. Finance Director

1. Approve Claims Roster/Voucher List

**CROWDER MOVED, MANN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS ROSTER/VOUCHER LIST. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:59 PM.**

**ATTEST:**

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Steven Wallner  
Clerk-Treasurer

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KJ McDonald  
Mayor