

**MINUTES OF THE  
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 28, 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, June 28, 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, Nicholas Hoese, Rick Mann and Michael Walters.

The following staff members were present: City Administrator Luke Fischer and City Engineer Dave Martini.

Also present were: Fire Chief Wade Stock and Matt Bunke.

**2. ADOPT AGENDA**

**HOESE MOVED, WALTERS SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

**3. REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Motion to approve minutes from the June 13, 2011 Council Workshop
- B. Motion to approve minutes from the June 14, 2011 Council Meeting
- C. Motion to accept U of Mn Captstone report on a conceptual pedestrian river crossing
- D. Motion to approve Highland ball field improvements
- E. Motion to approve 2011 computer purchases
- F. Motion to approve letter of support for CSAH 10 improvements south of Watertown
- G. Motion to approve Rails to Trails coordinated efforts
- H. Motion to approve ICC request for handicapped parking
- I. Motion to approve Hoff, Barry & Kozar pay request

McDonald asked to have item 3B pulled for a correction on two motions under Item 6A. Fischer stated that the tape of the June 14, 2011 council meeting will be reviewed for correction. Walters asked to have Item 3A pulled for a correction on a statement he made about the second river crossing study.

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

**4. OPEN FORUM**

- A. Tour de Tonka

Tim Litfin presented information on the bike tour that will take place Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011. He stated that there were nearly 2,500 riders last year and they have a goal of 3,000 this year. The ride begins at Minnetonka High School with many different lengths of rides available. The longest ride of 100 miles passes through Watertown. Litfin stated that volunteer corner guards are needed.

**5. CELEBRATE WATERTOWN**

McDonald stated that the fire department had an impressive training session Monday night.

## 6. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

### A. Downtown River Crossing Study

Fischer gave the Council background information leading up to the proposal by Carver County. He stated that this proposal would be a high level review of crossing options in the downtown area—generally focused on two primary sections (State and Madison streets) that were brought forward as part of the Southern River Crossing and a northern crossing. The downtown river crossing would not be a county roadway and would require city funds. In a letter to the City, Carver County Public Works Director/County Engineer Lyndon Robjent stated that although a downtown river crossing would be a city project, it would be reasonable to include considerations of this crossing into the overall study for the city to make an informed choice on a referred second river crossing. He stated that the County will continue to fund the study for the county components, which can include a cost evaluation of the northern crossing concept and intersection improvements at Lewis Avenue and County Road 10. The City's estimated cost for the study of the downtown crossing would be \$6,100. City Staff recommended that Council consider this proposal when it begins its budget process for 2012 and begin the work in January 2012.

McDonald highlighted some comments in the letter from Robjent to discuss. He asked for explanation of Robjent's comment on considerations of a downtown crossing into the overall study for the City to make a choice on a preferred second river crossing. Martini stated that at the beginning of the project they were looking at a short-term solution for replacing the existing bridge downtown. Looking at the bigger picture, the thought was to look for a more detailed study of a cost effective second river crossing. He stated that the other options being presented were to determine if the city was interested in pursuing them further. McDonald stated that the existing study by the County and Bolton & Menk would complement the proposal mentioned by Robjent. Martini stated that having information on the pros and cons of the different proposed routes will be beneficial to the Council. McDonald praised Robjent for his comment in the letter that the impetus of the County's request is the need to finalize the study after extensive time and expense has been expended in the County's effort to serve the previous City requests for the County to pursue and build a second river crossing. McDonald stated that if the City is going to look into the possibilities for the second crossing, they should do so now. McDonald stated that he supports the suggestion of the County.

Hoese stated that by using the County's information it will save time in making a decision about a second river crossing. He stated that it will give the Council more options. Martini stated that these are all pieces that are needed at some point in time. He stated that the City should look at all the options as to when they should begin to prioritize them. He stated that there should be some resolution to the study that was started. He stated that it would be good to finalize the choices so that everyone can benefit. McDonald stated that a possible result of the proposed study could help the Council to conclude that they should have taken advantage of the southern route June 14 and those who voted not to select an alignment may find the information necessary to reconsider their choice.

Mann stated that he read Robjent's letter differently than McDonald. He stated that an intercity second river crossing would be a city project but the County could include it in their transportation study. Mann stated that Robjent had told Bolton & Menk last year that in order to protect the residents of Watertown, a second river crossing should be determined before the County does any work on the existing city bridge. McDonald stated that the proposed study would not include details that the City would have to research. Mann stated that the study that is being done now will be funded mostly by Carver County.

**HOESE MOVED, CROWDER SECONDED A MOTION TO ALLOW CITY STAFF TO WORK WITH CARVER COUNTY ON A HIGH LEVEL STUDY OF THE NORTHERN AND DOWNTOWN RIVER CROSSINGS WITH CITY COSTS TO BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE 2012 BUDGET GOES INTO AFFECT JANUARY 1, 2012. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

B. Consider Council on Local Results and Innovation Reporting

Fischer stated that the Minnesota Legislature created a Council on Local Results and Innovation as part of its 2010 session to study different standards counties and municipalities could measure to improve performance. In return for participation, cities would receive 14 cents per resident – in Watertown’s case \$588.70 – and most notably, an exemption from levy limits. The City would be required to measure 10 general performance measures to develop a benchmark for City performance. The results of the measures would be maintained by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) and presumably included in a report to the legislature on an annual basis. Performance measures would be collected through an internal study or through a residential survey. Because the results of a survey would be reported to the OSA, city staff recommended the Council only consider a scientific survey through an independent research firm. That would cost approximately \$15,000 which would be included in the 2012 budget. Staff has concerns that a non-scientific approach could result in undue requirements from the State based on City submissions. A strong reason to participate in this performance measurement program would be to reserve the City’s right to operate in an environment exempt from limits—however there is not a strong indication one way or the other late limits would be enforced as a result of a pending special legislative session. McDonald stated that it would be unlikely that the legislature would deal with levy limits this year. He stated that a survey could help the city but the cost would be more than the reimbursement from the state. The consensus of the Council was not to participate.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORT**

A. Walters stated that the new fishing pier is in place in Riverpointe Park and is an excellent addition to the park. McDonald stated that the city is grateful for the donation in honor of Gary Danielson. Fischer stated that the City appreciates the work of John Motzko and his daughter, Leah Weyandt, for their efforts to see the project to its completion.

8. **CONSULTANTS’ REPORT**

A. City Engineer

1. Downtown Project Update

Martini gave an update on the final lift that is going in on County Road 20. He also stated that the retaining wall for the downtown project is nearing completion.

9. **MAYOR’S REPORT**

McDonald asked everyone to contact the Governor to call a special session and avoid a shutdown.

10. **COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORT**

11. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. City Administrator

1. Review Potential State Shutdown Impacts

Fischer stated that a state government shutdown will not affect the City as it does not receive any local government aid. He stated that the City will receive the property tax payment from Carver County. He stated that all services will continue at the city level. Reimbursements from Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for the Downtown Redevelopment Project will be delayed due to the shutdown as well as small projects which will be deferred so the City does not have to finance them up front.

D. Finance Director

1. Approve Claims Roster/Voucher List

**MANN MOVED, WALTERS 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 7:35 PM.**

**ATTEST:**

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Steven Wallner  
Clerk-Treasurer

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KJ McDonald  
Mayor