

City of Wabasso
City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2020
6 pm

The meetings opened with recitation off the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Atkins called the meeting to order with Council Members Steve Burns, Rachel Ingebretson and Carole Remiger present and Council member Wade McKittrick joined the meeting via Zoom. Also present was Larry Thompson, Paul Plaetz, Mike Remiger, Matt Novak, Pat Eichten and Jeff Olsen.

Motion by Remiger, Second by Burns to approve the agenda with changes as follows:

1. Add resolution approving sale of Lot 2, Block 1 Eastvail 2nd Addition to Dan Baune.
- Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

EDA President updated the Council on the following:

1. Sale of Lot 2, Block 1, Eastvail 2nd to Dan Baune.
2. Purchase agreement pendent on Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Eastvail 4th Addition.
3. EDA will meet with developer at its January meeting to discuss housing development opportunities.
4. Eastvail 4th Addition (May Street) covenants approved and recorded.

Motion by Burns, second by Ingebretson to adopt Resolution 17-2020 Approving the Sale of Lot 2, Block 1, Eastvail 2nd Addition to Dan Baune.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Report. Mr. Thompson will be taking time off on December 24th and noted the office will be closed 12/24/20; 12/25/20; and 1/1/21

Street Report – Mr. Remiger informed the Council that he planned to sell the junk pile for scrap.

Water/Wastewater Report: Mr. Plaetz noted the following:

1. Smoke testing – Report sent with the agenda packet. He was working on fixing the items noted in the report.
2. City was informed by Rural Development that the 2021 Sewer Rehab project would be funded in two phases – collection system and ponds.

Park and Recreation Report – none.

Truth in Taxation Hearing. Mr. Thompson presented an overview of the budget which was included in the budget packet. Mr. Thompson noted one item missing in the budget was a capital improvements plan which was anticipated to be completed in the early part of 2021. Other highlights noted by Mr. Thompson:

1. Budget represented mostly a continuation of existing programs.
2. COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the 2020 budget which was expected to continue through the first half of 2021.
3. The 2021 Sewer budget will mostly be a continuation of 2020, but major changes will be needed with the implementation of the 2021 Sewer Rehab project. The budget included a 10% increase in sewer rates in anticipation of the project.
4. Tax Levy – 3.73% increase.
5. Personnel – No change from 2020 other than the clerk consultant would be replaced by a part time assistant starting in 2021. The budget included a \$.50/hr. raise for the Public Works Director and Utilities Director.
6. General fund – Reduction of \$38,332 in expenses – largely due to no anticipated assistance from the federal government for COVID-19 expenses and no improvements to the Athletic Fields. Most expenses remained the same.
7. Library – No major changes.
8. Fire – No major changes.
9. Ambulance – No major changes. City needs to monitor service fees as they are largely dependent on Medicare/Medicaid changes and insurance reimbursement policies.
10. Water – New initiative for water tower maintenance contract and purchase of a control board and two new pumps.
11. Sewer – Noted above.
12. Debt Service – Will improve significantly over the next 3 to 5 years as debt is retired. Property tax debt levy is anticipated to drop \$90,000 in 2023 and the sewer debt transfer will drop \$42,000 in 2025 and an additional \$28,550 in 2026.
13. Interfund Debt will be addressed in the first part of 2021.

No comments were made from the public. The council had a general discussion on the budget. It was noted that part time salaries should also be considered as part of the budget. It was also noted the Council should develop a salary policy and work towards dovetailing the city policy with the Library policy.

Motion by Ingebretson, Second by Burns to approve a \$.50/hr. increase for the Public Works Director and Utilities Director and a \$.25/hr. increase for the part time personnel except Library staff.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Motion by Burns, Second by Remiger to adopt Resolution 18-2020 Adopting the 2021 Operating Budget and Certifying the 2020 Collectible 2021 Property Tax Levy.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Motion by McKittrick, second by Remiger to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve minutes of the November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting and November 20, 2020 Special Meeting.
2. Approve 2021 League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Liability Coverage Waiver Form – Not waiving liability cap.
3. Approve Assessment Agreement Between Redwood County and the City of Wabasso.

4. Adopt Resolution 19-2020 Accepting Donations to Fire Department and Ambulance.
5. Adopt Resolution 20-2020 Approving Transfer of Funds.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Water Fund (#601)	2010 Build America Bonds	\$29,000.00
Sewer Fund (#602)	2010 Build America Bonds	\$ 7,200.00

6. Approve Ambulance Service Agreement with Expert T Billing.
 7. Approve Privacy Agreement (HIPAA) with Expert T Billing.
- Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Irrigation Cost Sharing – Mr. Thompson note he and Mr. McKittrick had discussed irrigation cost sharing and had set parameters for setting a policy. They would be meeting with school district and city staff to discuss the policy. It was anticipated to have the matter before the council by March 2021.

Dollar General – Mr. Thompson informed the Council that a developer was seeking direction regarding annexing a parcel east of Mid County Ag into the city for the purpose of developing a Dollar General Store. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of the development and the possibility of the project being developed without being annexed into the city. Attorney Novak noted the Council had the right to approve or deny the request. It was the consensus of the Council that it was opposed to the proposal at this time as it did not have sufficient information to determine a benefit to the city. The Council directed Mr. Thompson to pass along this information to the developer.

The Council noted the October and November Library Board minutes and the October and November Sheriff's reports. Discussion ensued regarding possibly researching the possibility of increasing Sheriff's hours or hiring a police chief which could possibly be shared with another city. No action was taken at this time.

Motion by Burns, second by Remiger to approve the bills with the exception of the payment to Christopher Turbes for \$600.00.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Mr. McKittrick thanked Mr. Thompson and Ms. Ingebretson for the work they did on the City's new web page.

Mayor Atkins and Council Members Burns and McKittrick thanked Council Members Ingebretson and Remiger for their service to the community on the City Council.

Motion by Remiger, second by Burns to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Larry J Thompson
Clerk