

City of Wabasso  
City Council  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
6 pm

The meeting opened with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acting Mayor Burns called the meeting to order with Council Members Wade McKittrick, Roger Baumann, Jeff Olson present. Mayor Atkins and Clerk Treasurer Administrator Thompson were present via Zoom video.

Also present were Acting Deputy Clerk Mary Smith, EDC President Eichten and Street Maintenance Supervisor Remiger.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by McKittrick to approve the agenda.  
Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

EDA President Eichten presented the following EDA update.

1. EDA adopted formal application process for rental units.
2. EDA met with APX Construction to discuss possible construction of new rental units. APX would like the city to finance and own the first unit.
3. EDA considered an annexation request for a Dollar General Store. The EDA's position was that it did not have a strategic or development plan for the area in questions, and felt it needed such plans before approving any annexations.

Motion by Olson, second by Baumann to designate the Redwood Gazette as the official newspaper.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

It was the consensus of the City Council that Mayor Atkins and Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Thompson review the applications for the Maintenance Supervisor position and report back to the Council as to which applicants should be interviewed.

The Council considered the request for annexation for 2.5 acres east of Mid County Ag and south of Highway 68. Matt Novak indicated that he had forwarded information relating to the annexation process to the developer, City Council and EDA including the process and items to consider. Mr. Novak indicated that the city had not received a petition from the property owner for annexation, so technically there was nothing to consider at this time. Mr. Novak restated the discussion at the EDA meeting regarding the need for a development plan and strategic plan to guide development beyond the 2.5 acres in questions. Pat Dingels was going to look into assistance for development of such a plan as was to report back to the EDA.

Motion by Olson, second by Baumann, that the Council not consider any petitions for annexation until the city has approved a strategic plan.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

It was the consensus of the Council that the City Clerk's office be open for the general public effective 2/9/21

Motion By Olson, Second by Baumann, to adopt resolution 6-2021 appointing Mary K Smith as the Deputy Clerk Treasurer until Mr. Thompson returns from his illness.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

The following were heard during Public Comments:

Jim Salfer – Appreciates support from the community.

Paul Sobocinski – Supports Council's decision to delay annexation request until a strategic plan is developed to ensure continuation of essential services.

Jerry Norgaard – Mayor, Morton, MN – Advised against approving a Dollar General and to do research.

Lawrence Kallevig – Concerned about a business (Dollar General) that has the financial ability to put a local firm out of business.

Carol Atkins – Feels our local grocery store has a better quality of products and contributes to local charities.

Tiffany Eichten – Noted that it's important to support local businesses.

Streets report – Mike Remiger – A lot of time spent working on snow blower – has it mostly repaired. Council urged Mr. Remiger to write down license plates that are in violation of City's snow removal ordinance and pass along to sheriff.

Sewer and Water Utility – No report. Paul Plaetz absent.

Park and Recreation – No report.

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

1. Adopt Resolution 6-2021 to purchase grant through MN DOT State Aid Local Road Improvement – Cedar St. from #68 to May St.
2. Approve minutes – January 11, 2021

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

The Council directed Mr. Thompson to report on the text message alert system at the next council meeting.

Joyce Plaetz urged the City Council to reconsider converting the Tennis Courts to parking and to pursue possible grants for resurfacing.

Motion by Baumann, Second by Olson, to stop blowing the siren at 10:00 p.m.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

Motion by Olson, second by McKittrick, to hold the annual Board of Equalization for in person and Zoom attendance.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

Motion by McKittrick, Second by Olson to approve the bills as presented.  
Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

Motion by McKittrick, Second by Olson to adjourn at 7:10 pm.  
Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Olson-yes, Baumann-yes.

Larry J Thompson  
Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator