

City of Wabasso  
City Council  
Monday, March 14, 2022  
6pm

The meeting opened the meeting at the Wabasso Community Activity Center with the recitation of the pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Atkins called the meeting to order with Council members Steve Burns, Roger Baumann, Jeff Olson and Brad Salfer present. Also present were City Clerk/Treas./Administrator Larry Thompson, Public Works Director Jim Jenniges, Consulting Engineer David Palm, City Attorney Matt Novak, EDA President Pat Eichten, Patrick Gary and Briana Mumme (Redwood County EDA), Jim Salfer (Redwood County Commissioner) and Rachel Ingebretson.

Motion by Burns, second Olson to approve the agenda with the following changes:

1. Add Jeff Olson Building Permit to the consent agenda.
2. Add Resolution approving Fire Standby Agreements to the consent agenda.
3. Add Approval of a One Day Off Site Gambling Permit for March 26, 2022, to the consent agenda.
4. Add the following (Novak Law, Redwood County Sheriff and EFax Corp.) to the list of bills.
5. Adopt Ordinance No. 252 Relating to development in the City of Wabasso

Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**EDA Report.** EDA Board President Pat Eichten reported as follows:

1. Received one bid for the duplex that was high and was rejected. The EDA is exploring the next steps.
2. March 21, 2022, Public Hearing to consider Moderate Housing Program has been cancelled.
3. Reviewed business interviews which are noted in the March 2, 2022, minutes.
4. EDA will need to extend utilities to the Eastvail Third and Fourth Addition lots.
5. Treasurer's report. No delinquent loan payments.

**Redwood County EDA Broadband Report:**

Patrick Gary and Briana Mumme gave a presentation regarding the county's partnership with Arvig to install fiber optic cable in Wabasso. Mr. Patrick noted Arvig was submitting a grant application to the State for a Border to Border Grant which would cover 30% of the estimated costs of \$2,173,979 and Arvig had committed 25% of the costs. Arvig Manager Nathan Jacobson noted Arvig's share did not include the engineering and application costs which Arvig was fronting regardless of grant approval. The local share would be 45% which was to be shared by the County and the cities and townships involved with the project. Ms. Mumme explained the need for fiber optic, noting that Redwood County ranked 85<sup>th</sup> out of 87 in broadband service. County Commissioner Jim Salfer noted that the county board felt that access to affordable, reliable high speed internet was vital to the future growth of Redwood County. Ms. Mumme stated the county was requesting the city commit \$200,000 towards the project by April 30, 2022 and pay that amount during 2023. Mr. Thompson agreed that the project was important to the community but approving a commitment at this time was difficult because it fell outside of the budget cycle. Mr. Thompson asked if the city could commit to a payment plan over four years. Ms. Mumme indicated that it may be possible. Mayor Atkins asked if everyone would be required to subscribe to the high speed service. Mr. Jacobson said it would be strictly voluntary. Council members stated they agreed with Mr. Thompson's comments. Mr. Eichten stated this funding would be perfect for Wabasso EDA involvement, but a great deal of its funds would not be available due to state and federal restrictions. The City Council recommended Mr. Thompson and Mr. Eichten meet with the County to explore funding options.

**Public Comments.** Rachel Ingebretson stated that she felt the city had done a poor job of removing snow from the curb and gutter this past winter which resulted in flood of her driveway. Ms. Ingebretson added that she felt when she voiced her concern to the city that the city just gave excuses that the sewer was frozen. Mr. Thompson noted that Ms. Ingebretson emailed the concern in the afternoon and by the end of the working day the catch basin had been cleared. Mr. Olson stated that the city was working with all new staff this winter and felt the city had done a good job. The street crew would pay closer attention to cleaning the curb next winter.

**Clerk/Treas./Administrator Report.** Mr. Thompson informed the council that he was exploring options for group health insurance.

**Heart Defibrillator/Monitor.** Ambulance Director John Krohn stated the Ambulance Service had been soliciting donations and operating fund raisers for the past 2 ½ years to purchase the device and had raised over \$38,000. Mr. Krohn explained the benefits of the device and limited training that was required. Motion by Burns, Second by Salfer, to approve the purchase of a LifePak 15 Monitor/Defibrillator for \$33,872.23. Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**Lamberton Mutual Aid** – Mr. Krohn stated Lamberton was still short staffed during the day shift and would most likely be asking for a six month extension.

#### **Street Report.**

1. **Generator Update** – Mr. Jenniges informed the council that the city had found two used generators that fell within the allocated amount.
2. **Snow Blower** – The new snow blower has arrived. The council directed staff to sell the old blower.

#### **Utilities Report.**

1. **Water Panel Upgrade** – The new panel and pumps should be installed during April.
2. **Wastewater Training** – Mr. Jenniges would be attending training the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>. Kyle Salfer would begin water and wastewater training this winter.
3. **Karie Salfer Water Bill** – The city agreed to waive the interest in penalties to Karie Salfer (737 Main Street) provided she signs a note with a payment plan for 12 months.
4. **Water Meter Report** – The City has received a quote for a fixed base reading system with ultrasonic and disc (mechanical) meter systems. Mr. Thompson stated he was waiting for quotes for a cellular based system and a full presentation would be given at a future council meeting.
5. **Water Plant Upgrades** – Mr. Palm reviewed a report noting the recommended maintenance and upgrades to the water plant. It was noted some were critical and some could be longer term. Mr. Jenniges indicated the most critical item was the dehumidifier, which would cost approximately \$3,000. It was the consensus the city order a commercial grade dehumidifier. Mr. Palm indicated some of the improvements may qualify for an RD or PFA grant. Mr. Palm was directed to prepare an RD grant application to be place on the next meeting consent agenda. Motion by Olson, second by Baumann to approve the purchase of a chlorine scale.  
Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**Sewer Rehab Project Update** – Mr. Palm stated the engineering report had mostly been reviewed by the state and USDA and the project was waiting for funding form the state and federal government.

**Tennis Courts Parking Lot** – The council reviewed the preliminary layout of the conversion of the Tennis/Basketball courts at the Athletic Fields to a parking lot. It was recommended the parking stalls be diagonal where possible and the road be one way to CR 6. Mr. Palm state he would prepare a preliminary engineering report including estimates for a phased project and completed project.

**Consent Agenda.** Motion by Burns, Second by Salfer to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 4-2022 Establishing Precinct Boundary and Polling Place.
2. Roadhouse Street Closures for the Roadhouse
3. Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2022, Council Meeting.
4. Approve Building Permit – Jeff Olson – 542 South Street – Fence
5. Adopt Resolution No. 5-2022 approving 2022/2023 Fire Standby Agreements
6. Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – abstain; Salfer – yes.

**Highway 68 Corridor Study.** Motion by Olson, Second by Salfer to authorize the consulting engineer to prepare a Highway 68 Corridor Study – costs to be shared with the EDA.

Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**Community Center Updates:** The council received a report on the status of the Community Center improvements. Items noted.

1. Scheduled improvements were mostly complete. Events scheduled for the upcoming weekend.
2. Waiting for quotes on the PA system, projector and large screen TVs.
3. Room divider – possibly resurface with wainscot
4. Waiting for a second quote for security cameras
5. Keyless entry system – quotes received.
6. Most of the old tables and chairs have been sold.

The council agreed to reduce the price of the chairs to whatever it takes to sell them. Motion by Burns, second by Bauman, to purchase a keyless fob system for \$5,115 .89

Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**Assessment Policy.** The council received a draft copy of the City assessment policy. No action was taken.

**Stormwater Utility.** The council received a stormwater utility report. No action was taken.

**Cedar Street Improvement Project.**

1. The city council reviewed the plans and specifications for the Cedar Street improvement. Mr. Palm presented an overview of the approval/bidding process, noting the plans would need to be approved by the county and state. Motion by Olson, second by Burns to adopt **Resolution No. 6-2022 approving the plans and specification for the Cedar Street Improvement project**  
Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.
2. **Tree Bids** – Motion by Burns, second by Olson to accept the bid of Brown Tree Service for \$2,791.75.  
Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**Interim Ordinance.** Motin by Olson, Second by Salfer to adopt Ordinance No. 252 Relating to Development within the City of Wabasso (Extend Ordinance No. 251 by 12 months.)

Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

**Bills.** Motion by Salfer, Second by Burns to approve the bills as follows:

General Checking:

<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	\$ 114,132.70
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Fund	\$ 5,539.96
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Fund	\$ 6,148.21
<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse	<u>\$ 2,194.83</u>
Total	<u>\$ 128,735.70</u>

Ambulance Checking: \$ 5,553.65

Fire Checking: \$ 425.39

TOTAL: \$ 134,714.74

Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

Motion by Salfer, second by Burns to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Atkins – yes; Burns – yes; Baumann – yes; Olson – yes; Salfer – yes.

Larry Thompson

City Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator