

Wabasso City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2020
Zoom Meeting 6 pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited prior to opening the meeting.

Mayor Carol Atkins called the meeting to order with Council Members Steve Burns, Rachel Ingebretson and Carole Remiger present. Wade McKittrick joined the meeting shortly thereafter.

Also present were Jodi Gronli-Werner, Kari Salfer, Matt Novak, Paul Plaetz, Mike Remiger and Mary Smith.

The agenda was approved with 2 additions to the consent agenda and an addition to the agenda with a motion by Ingebretson, seconded by Remiger.
Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Pat Eichten presented an update on the EDA. The first item dealt with discussions with Chad Adams from Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership. He brought some plans for a duplex. There needs to be a change to put the garages in between. They are working on this for additional housing. The second item was May Street. Chuck Robasse had put together possible prices for lots on the north side and options to purchase for discussion with Serenity Suites. It will be platted as currently drawn and if needed lots can be divided to be sold or two sold together. Due to COVID-19 the EDA will be offering the opportunity to current borrowers to put their payments on hold from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021 and then resume them at that time. The choice will be up to the individual borrower. He also brought up that Clete Guetter has been approached again about selling land to a developer for a Dollar General store. The Mayor expressed the opinion that she is not in favor of anything that may hurt an existing business in town.

Jodi Werner-Gronli appeared before the council to discuss issues with a sewer line to the property at 1440 Front Street. The issues have caused sewer backup into the basement of the home. A letter that was presented was reviewed. After some discussion, the Mayor called a Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 20, 2020 to further discuss the issue once additional information was obtained, such as the exact problem and cost for repairs.

Mike Remiger presented the Street Report. A motion by Ingebretson, seconded by Burns made to accept the bids for crack sealing of \$42,000.00 for streets and \$5,00.00 for the community center parking lot was approved.
Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Mike's requested vacation time was okayed by the council.
Mike also brought up a vehicle that has been sitting in the lot across from the community center that does not have current license. The city attorney is working on this.

Letters regarding the possible paving of certain unpaved streets will go out shortly as the city attorney is finishing them up.

Paul Plaetz presented the Water/Sewer Report. The Mayor pointed out two storm sewer grates that need to be cleared off. Paul asked for some time off as well.

Kari Salfer appeared before the council to discuss the sewer portion of an excess water use bill due to a broken meter. Kari explained to the council the floor of the crawl space under the building is all dirt and therefore the water did not actually enter the sewer system. A motion was made by McKittrick to remove the \$230.05 sewer charge, seconded by Ingebretson. Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes.

Carole Remiger presented the Park & Rec report. The Baseball Association has hired Chad Olson to take care of the field this year. With no games scheduled, they are working on some small projects at this time. The Softball Association is working on getting the field ready for next season.

The dates in the athletic field agreement need to be changed and the lease agreement signed by the Mayor then sent to the school for approval and signing.

A motion was made by Ingebretson, seconded by Remiger to remove the Land use permit for 563 Maple Street from the consent agenda.

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

The April 21 minutes were removed until appropriate changes are made.

The following items were approved on a motion by Ingebretson, seconded by Remiger

1. Minutes of the April 13 meeting
2. Land Use Permits

A. 384 June Street	New Shed
B. 375 June Street	Concrete patio & drive
C. Safe Storage	Addition to building
D. 681 Maple Street	Sidewalk replacement & curb cut
E. 1214 Oak street	New Shed

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

The application for a land use permit for 563 Maple Street for a new home was discussed. A motion was made by Ingebretson, seconded by Remiger to approve the application and in the instance, it is not in compliance with the set back ordinance, approve the variance.

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

A fine of \$350.00 is to be billed to the individual that put up a fence without first getting a permit was approved on a motion by Ingebretson, seconded by McKittrick.

A motion was made by McKittrick, seconded by Ingebretson to approve a fence at 1460 Elm Street if the party is willing to move to 30 feet from the street, and in the instance it is not in compliance with the set backs approve a variance.

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

A request to remove a sidewalk on Cedar Street to June Street was approved on a motion by McKittrick, seconded by Burns.

Atkins-yes, Burns-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-Abstain, Remiger-no.

The request to remove a special assessment for 2009 water project from a parcel was withdrawn by the requestor.

Matt Novak informed the council the letters for street paving are almost ready to go out. The advertisement for the Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator is out. Wade McKittrick said there were already 2 applications through Indeed. Letters regarding nuisances are being prepared. A vacation policy that would have the employees either paid out at half their current salary for their hours of vacation at the end of 2019 and receive their 2020 hours as of January 1 of 2020 or require employees to use their time before the end of the year with their 2020 hours given as of January 1 was approved on a motion by Ingebretson, seconded by McKittrick.

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

The hiring process will be discussed at the Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 20.

Rachel Ingebretson has suggested the Council consider having contact information and pictures on the new website.

The City Clerk will be off from Wednesday, May 20 until Thursday, May 28. Julie Rothmeier will be asked if she would come in long enough to deal with day to day items while clerk is off. The Clerk will be present for the May 20 Special Meeting.

Bills in the amount of \$23837.39 were approved for payment on a motion by McKittrick, seconded by Ingebretson.

A request to close streets for graduation May Street from Cedar Street to Oak Street and Cedar Street from Dewey North to May and the alley was approved on a motion by Burns, seconded by Ingebretson.

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

Wade McKittrick brought up Joe Kemp enquiring if he could arrange for someone to thatch and aerate. He was told Joe can go ahead with that.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.