

**WATERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 2, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

There was a regular meeting that the Waterville City Council held in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on July 2, 2024.

Call to Order / Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Mayor Bill Conlin, Council members: Tim Smith, Dave Wollin, and Jennifer Grobe

Also Present: Administrator Teresa Hill, City Attorney Jason Moran

Absent: City Engineer Jason Femrite

Mayor Conlin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Announced present members of Council and Staff and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda/Additional Items to Agenda

Mayor Conlin requested to add Resolution 2024R-022 to 3.D. Move the Citizen Time to 7. D. after Commissioner Preisler. Move letter 7. D. to 7. E. Add 8. C Administration Report. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Wollin to approve the agenda as amended. Motion Carried 4-0.**

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes- June 4, 2024, June 11, 2024, June 20, 2024, and June 25, 2024. B. Approval of Disbursements. 1. Electronic Fund Transfers (35774E-35797E) \$47,704.38. 2. Payroll Check Numbers (2024212-2024259) \$51,489.33. 3. Computer-generated checks and Overtime (38610-38675) \$140,051.32. 4. Total Disbursements \$239,245.03. C. Impress Cash Fund-\$3.07. D. Resolution 2024R-022 appointing Election Judges. **Motion by Grobe Seconded by Wollin to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried 4-0.**

Public Hearings

THC Ordinance Moratorium

Attorney Moran conveyed to the Council that the legalization of marijuana statute is in full effect. This proposed moratorium will give the Council and the Planning and Zoning until January 31st of 2025 to get ordinances into place to govern how many licenses the City will allow and where it can be consumed. The moratorium can be lifted by the Council if the ordinance gets into place before January 31st, 2025. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Smith to open the Public Hearing Motion Carried 4-0.** **Mayor Conlin** opened the floor to the Citizens about the THC Moratorium. No Citizens Addressed the Council at this time. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Wollin to close the THC Moratorium Public Hearing. Carried 4-0. Public Hearing closed at 6:06 pm. Motion by Wollin Seconded by Smith to accept the Moratorium and the Second reading of the THC Ordinance. Motion Carried 4-0**

Old Business

Golf Cart Ordinance

Attorney Moran relayed during a previous Council Meeting it was asked that the Golf Cart Ordinance be reviewed. This review is to merely issue a permit to the Golf Cart and not the operators. To obtain a permit they would have to present a valid driver's license and current insurance. Just as you would follow state regulation to register your own vehicle. Permits can be cart-specific, the City can also get decals to put on the Golf Cart. Surrounding Cities have very similar ordinances. **Mayor Conlin** asked when this ordinance needs to start. **Attorney Moran** replied that it could be effective on passage. **Council Wollin** stated that Brady Fischer does decals and we should check with him. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Wollin to accept this as the first reading of Golf Cart Ordinance 75-2024 and set a Public Hearing date to the Regular scheduled August City Council Meeting at 6 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.**

New Business

A. Proposed Ordinances amendments allowing for Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Sales as an Accessory Use to retail stores in the City of Waterville. 1. 150.10.2024 B1 Limited Business District. 2. 150.11.2024 B-1 Commercial Recreational Shoreland District. 3. 150.12.2024 B-3 General Business District. 4. 150.13.2024 B-4 Central Business District. 5. 150.15.2024 I-2 General Industry District. 6. 150.14.2024 IL Limited Industry District. **Administrator Hill** relayed that the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed the initial drafts. They have made some changes that will need to be altered. Requesting to table Items A& B under new business until next Council Meeting. All drafts will be updated at this point for review. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Wollin to table 7A and B proposed ordinances and amendments for the hemp, edibles, and cannabinoids till advised changes have been made. Motion Carried 4-0.**

County Commissioner David Preisler

Commissioner Preisler approached the Council to inform them what is happening at the County level. 1. Pertaining to the recent flooding, the County will be taking on the sandbagging operation, along with the debris removal site, communications along with working with high officials at the State and Federal levels. 2. There was a declaration made and an application was sent to the Governor, Le Sueur was one of the first four counties he had granted. With FEMA two types of funding could be granted in this situation. One is Public Assistance which is an aid to public (and certain private non-profit.) entities for certain emergency services and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged public facilities. This has been granted. Two is Individual Assistance aid to individuals and households. This is for private claims for citizens this has not been granted yet at this time. With Individual Assistance FEMA will want to come in and do their assessments before something like this will be granted. 3. As for the Infrastructure the County has exceeded the threshold for the declaration of a disaster. There are still areas that will need to be assessed, but this cannot be performed until the water has receded off of the roadway. The Public infrastructure is currently sitting at over 3 million in damages without all damage being assessed. 4. As for the Rail Road bed that has been washed out in the Minnesota River valley, this will take some time to clean up. The primary affected areas are Saint Peter and Mankato. The County will not be taking care of this. The Rail Road is their own entity and they will take care of this matter as they see fit. 5. If there are still citizens out there in the County who would like to do a well sampling for possible contamination from the flood waters. This being fully consumed or within 50 ft from the well; the County will be able to provide testing kits. The deadline for this is tomorrow at 10:30 am. The drop-off is here at City Hall. At that time a County Employee will take the samples up to the cities for analysis. The County is willing to provide this service to those citizens at no cost. 6. All the Emergency numbers that have been listed on the web page for citizens to reach out for assistance will be redirected to the staff member who is responsible for the listed number. 7. The Red Cross is still sheltering. 8. There has been over 100,000 sandbags filled. With 13,000 that are still available if anyone is in need. When dealing with the removal of sandbags after the event there will be a specific location in the debris site. This should be the last priority. Taking into consideration the unpredictability of the weather patterns. There are significant tasks that need to be completed to be able to dispose of the sandbags correctly to be reimbursed by FEMA. 9. To be noted that there is documentation of over 2,000 volunteers just on the sandbagging operations. The Department of Corrections out of Faribault was also a great attribute to the sandbagging with help from inmates in their end-of-term sentencing. 10. Damage assessments, the best thing to do is report all damages and document everything before and after cleanup. An easy way to do this is by taking photos. These assessments can be reported by different avenues with the Red Cross, or the Le Sueur County Emergency Management. 11. All bridges were inspected and looked good. 12. The debris management team has already processed 300 loads filling 17-18 dumpsters. This site will be able to process mostly all debris items at no cost to the citizens. The County's Environmental Service staff deserves great credit for all their hard work and dedication to get the debris site up and running. The hours of the debris site will vary. This is dependent on the needs of citizens, staffing for equipment, and volunteers to help in the site. Once the need starts tailing off, there will be deliberation at that time of the closing of the site. **Council Smith** asked if volunteers were working down at the debris site. **Commissioner Priesler** replied that it is a combination of environmental services staff, other County employees, and some volunteers. The main need right now with civilian volunteers will be in the mucking out of the homes. As for organizing those volunteers the City of Waterville will be running that portion of the relief. If citizens want to volunteer at the debris site they can go to the red trailer to sign in to volunteer. Also, keep checking the Le Sueur County Emergency Management web page for updated hours of operation of the site. **Administrator Hill** stated that there is a sign-up genius set up on the Le Sueur County Facebook site. 12. As for the bridge replacement, that schedule has changed. If the time frame of the bridge repair encroaches on the start time of school, it may be pushed to a later time. This project will take about two weeks from start to finish. We are going to wait until the cleanup has settled down and the water recedes. **Council Grobe** asked how the County was planning on taking care of the contaminated sandbags. **Commissioner Priesler** replied that they would be placed in a lined landfill. FEMA and the EPCA have set requirements, rules, and guidelines that are what we will follow. **Council Smith** thanked the Commissioner on behalf of the citizens. **Commissioner Priesler** replied we are a partnership.

Citizen Time

Tina Potter asked the Council if they would like her to try to continue to contact volunteers and church groups. Along with reaching out to businesses to see if donations can be made? **Administrator Hill** replied that it would be nice to have you continue to line up trucks and volunteers to remove debris from the curbside. The cleaning supplies donations we will have to circle back at a later time. The Salvation Army will be in this weekend and will be providing meals. There will be Minnesota VOADs arriving this Friday and Saturday. You and your

husband have been a great asset to our community. **Reporter Schnider** asked if there are no volunteers at the debris site can the citizens take their debris down there to dispose of it? **Commissioner Priesler** stated it would be preferred to have them keep the sandbags on their property until the site is open. There are cameras located down at the site that are continuously recording. **Chief & Emergency Management Director Manning** mentioned that there are multiple concerns. It is preferred to not allow citizens in unless it is open and running, there are hazards to the citizens attempting to dispose of material, with sharp items or possibly the mixture of chemicals that should not be mixed. **Roy McIntyre** told Council that his move had been delayed to July 10th. Thanking all Council and Staff for the 10 years of experiences he had been able to share with all of them. **Scott Potter 107 East Main Street** thanked the Council, Mayor, Attorney, City Staff, and the Police Department for the long hours and days everyone has been working.

Utility Fees

Administrator Hill asked the Council to consider waiving penalties for delinquent utilities for four to six months. **Motion by, Wollin Seconded by Smith to waive the late utility fees until January 1st of 2025.**
Motion Carried 4-0. **Administrator Hill** requested from Council the citizens affected by the water main break and had no services to not charge any base fee. **Council Smith** abstained from the item of discussion and vote. **Motion by, Wollin Seconded by Grobe to not charge base fees for water and sewer to those affected by the water main break Motion Carried 3-0.**

Reports

Attorney Report

Attorney Moran had nothing to report.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Femrite was not present.

Administrators Report

Administrator Hill relayed that the water main break was draining the water tower extremely fast. We were not able to locate or identify the direct source of the leak. Due to this, they had to shut down water services for Tetonka Boulevard, Marian Street, Tetonka View Drive, and Tetonka View Circle. Engineer Femrite is looking for possible ways to get them a temporary water source. This will not be feasible until the water has receded. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will not allow us to test by starting at one curb stop valve and moving to the next to pinpoint the break. This could be harmful to the citizens without having the ability to flush out the line with clean water. We are actively working on getting these temporary water services started. There were seven pumps by passing the storm sewer waters, we are now down to four pumps. Over one million gallons of water are being processed right now at the treatment plant. The Minnesota VOADs are a resource of vetted volunteers by the Federal or State Government. Samaritans Purse will be in this Friday and Saturday, as of right now there are over forty homes to be mucked out to be contractor-ready that they met with at the informational meeting yesterday. Praying Pelican Mission members out of Owatonna are also helping those in need with the removal of debris in homes. Encore is also looking to come in to help, the Lutheran Church also has an association of volunteers. Curb-side debris pick-up assistance has been offered by Tina and Scott Potter who have been lining up volunteers and will assist on Saturday. Would the Council consider contracting out for haulers for curb-side pick-up and to be hauled to the dump site? This would be classified as debris removal for full reimbursement that would be qualified by FEMA. There will be a need for volunteers to get debris and sandbags out to the curb. **Council Smith** stated that this could be acted upon now, we are all in agreeance. **Administrator Hill** responded since you are all willing, I will ask the mayor to set a meeting when the information is available. During the open house last night, there were approximately 144 households that signed in. Some of my main concerns were to get individuals help with cleaning out their homes and associating a face with someone they knew they were comfortable working with. Also, to know the City was backing these groups too. Commissioner Priesler talked about the individual assistance from FEMA and if or when this takes place, I would like for them to have their intake center at the Sr. Center. In the past, FEMA was able to set up and process applications. At this time FEMA can walk citizens through the entire individual assistance process. **Council Grobe** asked if there is a threshold that would need to be met for this process to take place. **Administrator Hill** responded from my experience it is based on a dollar amount. This is why damage assessments are key. These assessments can be found online through the County. **Council Grobe** asked do citizens turn in their information on their homes through a website. **Administrator Hill** replied that there is a link on the Le Sueur County Emergency Management website, there will also be forms available at City Hall to be filled out. Homeowners are their own greatest voice to give a great deal of information on the damage that occurred in their homes.

Chief of Police and Emergency Management Director Manning

Thanked all the volunteers thus far and credited our community for sticking together, also thanking the Mayor, and Council for you have been everywhere we have been. Administrator Hill has been very dedicated along with the City Staff. Seargent Mathis has been with me throughout this whole duration. Thanking the Commissioner, and the Emergency Management team from the County. Thank you to the City Attorney and his wife for filling sandbags and manning a lift station for hours. All of this makes me proud to be working in this community. As for the debris removal site, citizens can wait until there is staffing and volunteers available to run the site. This is to protect the citizens from any injury or even worse a fatality. The Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department is assisting with covering Law enforcement staffing needs Sunday through Wednesday, along with boat patrol. They have stated they will not be charging the City for the hours worked over the weekend they will be submitting the hours to FEMA. The Police department has been working in the Lagoons per duck boat patrolling along with taking measurements. Minnesota State Patrol is helping with the intersections on the water level on Hwy 13. The Department of Natural Resources is also in the area doing its assessments. The Tetonka Bay lift station is now an island. Sunset Lane has 6-8 inches of standing water on the roadway. This is down about 4 inches. Driving on Sunset Lane is not suggested, only if necessary. There are plenty of roads still closed due to standing water: 1st Street, Sakatah Blvd., Tetonka Bays, all the Lagoons area, and Virginia Street. **Sargent Mathis** stated in the Lagoons from the 26th of June till today has gone from 13 inches in one spot down to 10 ½ inches. **Chief / EM Director Manning** stated that the County has provided drone footage of the flood which has been a great asset compared to the flood in 2014. **Sargent Mathis** commented on having 39 inches of standing water in areas which is still very deep. **Chief / EM Director Manning** some roads that have been reopened and are now safe for passage: Paquin Street, 5th Street, and 6th Street.

Council Discussion

Council Smith Thanked Police Chief Manning and Sergeant Mathis for standing up for the city when they got put into a tough spot when the citizens needed it most. **Council Wollin** stated you find out what type of community you live when going through an event like this. I feel we passed the test, we all care about each other and this is a great community to live in.

Adjournment

Motion by, Smith Seconded by Grobe to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm Motion Carried 4-0.

William Conlin, Mayor

Teresa Hill, Administrator-Clerk