

**WATERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 4, 2025, 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 March 4, 2025.

Call to Order / Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Council members: Tim Smith, Dave Wollin, Sarah Edwards, Scott Potter, and Mayor Bill Conlin

Also Present: Administrator Teresa Hill and City Attorney Jason Moran

Absent: City Engineer Jason Femrite

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

Approval of Agenda/Additional Items to Agenda

Administrator Hill noted: Consent Agenda Item D should be Waterville Festival Committee. Letter F is to include the Liquor License for Classics for a Sunday license, remove letter H from the Consent Agenda, and the Budget Revision letter H should be Letter I. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Smith** to approve the Agenda as amended. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes- January 21, 2025, February 4, 2025, and February 24, 2025. B. Approval of Disbursements. 1. Electronic Fund Transfers (36001E- 36032E) \$55,431.44. 2. Payroll Check Numbers (2025589- 2025635) \$53,932.85. 3. Computer Generated Checks and Overtime (39247-39316) \$193,043.34. 4. Total Disbursements \$302,407.63. C. Impress Cash-\$6.10. D. Resolution 2025R-003 Gambling Request- ~~Sportsmen's Club~~ **Waterville Festival Committee**. E. Resolution 2025R-004 Lions 5M2 Donation. F. Liquor License Renewals. G. 2025R-005 Bad Debt Expense. ~~H. AFSCME Contract Approval.~~ **Motion by Smith Seconded by Potter** to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Old Business:

EDA Vacancy

Council discussed the application and letter that had been received. Noting that they would like to ask the applicants some basic questions. Council decided to table the agenda item until the next Regular Council Meeting. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Potter** to table filling the EDA appointment until both parties are present at the April 1st Regular Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

The Council reopened the EDA Vacancy at 7:06 p.m. due to both applicants being present at this time. **Mayor Conlin** requested each applicant give up to a 3-minute introduction of themselves. Jennifer Grobe introduced herself stating that she has eight years of experience that has given her the knowledge of what is needed to be accomplished. Gary Schott introduced himself stating his interest in the EDA, along with sharing the background experience that he can bring to the table. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Edwards** to rescind the previous motion for the next meeting. **Motion Carried 5-0.** **Motion by Edward Seconded by Smith** to appoint Gary Schott to the EDA Vacancy **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Personnel Committee Policy Revision

Administrator Hill relayed that this is the agreeance from the last Council for the removal of the additional Council Member. Now it will be 1 Council instead of 2. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Edwards** to approve the policy revision on the Personnel Committee. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Citizen Time.

No Citizens approached the Council at this time.

New Business.

Safe Routes to School Presentation-Joel Hanif

Joel Hanif from Region 9 Development Community presented the Safe Route to School data that had been collected in Morrissetown and Waterville. Joel made some key notes about the safety issues on the current bike routes. Also mentioning the need to push children to want to commute to school by riding bikes or walking. This push is to get all the young students and their families active, to support healthy lifelong habits. It would be great to see the school push for this activity with possible challenges. Some examples would be for the number of times riding to school or implementing a program for bicycle safety or having a class. With assistance from SHIP and MN DOT, we can administer some plans for safe routes to school. The main issues in Waterville are the HWY 13 crossing by Caseys, and the crossing on Paquin St. by the School. Other areas to look at would be crossing by the bike trail and adding a crossing on HWY 60 to the baseball field. Joel closed out by asking the Council to

reach out to him to share any concerns or questions and the next step would be producing a final document for adoption.

Steve Tolzman -Schmidtke Dam and Gorman Changes

Steve Tolzman introduced himself to the Council. He relayed to the Council his concerns that he had seen and heard from attending the meeting that was held at the 4-H building. Noting he has spent the last 30 years on the same property. German Lake runs on the back side of my property. Currently I take on additional water ever since the culvert on German Lake was doubled in size. It will run well until it gets to Waterville, then it back flows onto my property. Tolzman expressed his concern about the bottleneaking that may occur in the City of Waterville when Ditch 59 and the Cannon River fill up. The DNR states that they will do nothing with the dam on Lake Gorman. If you go look at the Dam right past the public access, you will see where they are going to enlarge this. What was observed during the flood event, the water was coming right over the banks onto the road because it didn't have enough capacity to move through the culvert. This will benefit the City of Gorman but it will be terrible for Waterville. The Schmidtke Dam has been open for years, this isn't doing any good. So, the proposed wing dam made of rock is what is being discussed. These get congested with debris easily and are not the easiest to get the debris removed to allow the proper flow of water. In my opinion, there is no lake behind Schmidtke Dam. The outlet out of Gorman is going to hurt Waterville the most. Currently, the road holds back the water and if the culverts are increased in size, this will affect Waterville by allowing large amounts of water to flow all at one time. Tolzman noted that increasing the culvert size out of Lake Francise may help. **Council Smith** stated that he was under the impression that the outlets should be on the downside of the water channel sides would be opened first. Council thanked Tolzman for bringing forth the information and concerns that he had.

Resolution 2025R-006 Park Dedication -South Reed Street Lots

Administrator Hill stated in the dedication they are naming the park and listing the two parcel ID's that were gifted to the City of Waterville. Events will be happening on this lot. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Smith** to approve Resolution 2025R-006 Park Dedication. **Motion Carried 5-0**

Lake Treatment

Administrator Hill relayed to the Council that there was no grant funding received this year. With the flood waters last year, the entire bay will be affected. Hill asked the Council for direction on how they would like to see her proceed with this. Council held a discussion on the process of the DNR for testing and the sensitivity on time with temperature is always a concern. There was a conversation about the types of treatments that were available from chemical treatment to harvesting. Being noted chemical treatment was the most forward concept, for when it would come to harvesting, to have a harvester enter the bay would be a challenge along with locating a place that would be willing to take the plants to decompose somewhere. There was also a conversation on the amount of water that will be allowed to be treated and how that number is obtained. **Council Smith** stated that we should request for the delineation to be able to go out for bids. **Valerie Vail** from the Park Board had noted that with the mellow winter this year, the Curly Leaf possibly could have continued to grow, and the milfoil is also in Tetonka. The milfoil can be treated in July. With making a final note that the DNR allowed 19 of the 36 acres to be treated last year. **Motion by Smith Seconded by Wollin** to have Teresa contact the local authority to do the delineation on Sakata Bay. **Motion Carried 5-0**

Special Meeting Date (Investigation Report and Dam Changes)

Motion by Smith Seconded by Edwards to set the Special Meeting for March 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. **Motion Carried 5-0**

New EM Team Member Hires

Administrator Hill relayed that the HR Committee is recommending the approval of the two new members at this time with three more to be interviewed. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Smith** to approve the new EM team members. **Motion Carried 4-0 Council Potter abstained.**

Resolution 2025R-007 Authorizing The Termination Of A Prior Agreement Not To Subdivide Land Within The Corporate Limits Of The City Of Waterville.

Attorney Moran relayed to Council that the property owner is in town and wants to develop this land. This agreement is currently archaic from 1993, there is no reason that this shouldn't be subdivided at this time, and recommended the restrictions be lifted. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Potter** to approve Resolution 2025R-007. **Motion Carried 5-0**

Clean-up Day (May 17, 2025)

Administrator Hill relayed to Council that historically the day of cleanup is held around May 17th. This will have a small cost and the small amount of funding that it will cost will be coming from the 603 fund. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Smith** to approve May 17 for the cleanup day. **Motion Carried 5-0**

Budget Revisions

Administrator Hill relayed to Council that some line items will be moved around for the 2024 budget. This does not show any flooding impact. **Motion by Wollin Seconded by Potter** to approve the Budget Revisions as outlined. **Motion Carried 5-0 Administrator Hill** provided an update to Council that of the approximate flood cost of \$244,000.00 only \$42,000.00 have been approved for reimbursement thus far.

Reports

Attorney Report

Attorney Moran reported to the Council that he had been invited to a meeting to go over the detailed complex plans for the neighbor to maintain the overhang of the tree on the City Hall roof. There is still no clear timeline for these plans. This information on dates will need to be supplied to me no later than Thursday of this week. If there is no compliance on this request, I will proceed with the allowed enforcement action to remove the trees. Stating he would have an update at the April meeting.

Engineer's Report

Administrator Hill relayed to Council that Jason Femrite has reported that the boring samples have been collected for the Pickleball court and he will prepare plans after the samples are analyzed.

Administrators Report

Administrator Hill mentioned that the special meeting about the specifics of Schmitdke Dam still needs to be scheduled. This will be a special meeting hosted in the Sr. Center. This way it won't bog down the Regular meeting and will give the ability to residents to attend as well. Council and staff discussed days that would work.

Council Discussion

Administrator Hill relayed to Council that Commissioner Priesler had reached out to relay he attended a commissioners meeting with a revised plan to present to the House for upland storage funding. Senator Stier will be sponsoring this bill. At the end of April, informational meetings will be held with willing participating landowners for possible individual land storage. There was also a meeting with the governor's staff to get a heads-up on EDA applicants and the State fund match to see what this was about. **Council Edwards** stated that she would like to recognize the received letter from an anonymous citizen about the prior Police Chief. Noting that the concerns are valid. The City cannot do anything further with this letter. Council noted that the City did what was beneficial financially and with the course of action taken recommended by the employment attorney. Everyone is entitled to have their own opinion.

Adjourn

Motion by Smith Seconded by Wollin to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.**

William Conlin, Mayor

Teresa Hill, Administrator-Clerk