

**MINUTES OF THE
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 13, 2010**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the Watertown City Council was called to order, on **Tuesday, April 13, 2010** by Mayor K. J. McDonald at 6:30 PM in the Watertown City Hall Council Chambers.

Upon roll call the following Council Members were present: McDonald, Steve Duske, Earline King, and Rick Mann. Council member Dan Geiger was absent.

The following staff members were present: City Engineer David Martini of Bolton & Menk, Inc., Public Works Superintendent Doug Kammerer, and Acting Administrator/City Clerk-Treasurer and Finance Director Steven Wallner

2. ADOPT AGENDA

Wallner asked to have Item 8C (Newton Avenue Apartments sewer connection) added to the agenda.

KING MOVED, DUSKE SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

3. REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council Minutes for March 23, 2010
- B. Approval of pay request from City Building Official – MNSPECT, Inc
- C. Approval of pay request from City Community Development Consultant – MK Land
- D. Approval of rehiring seasonal employees – Garret Genereux and Logan Pysick

Duske asked to have Item 3D pulled for discussion.

McDonald stated that a correction needed to be made to the March 23, 2010 minutes. The last sentence should be changed to read “Wallner stated that if the city owns the property it can be assessed and if the property is sold to a developer, the assessment would transfer to the new owner.” Correction will be made to the minutes.

DUSKE MOVED, MANN SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

4. OPEN FORUM

5. CELEBRATE WATERTOWN

- A. Kammerer thanked Greg Theisen of Gridor Construction for donating a 4-inch trash pump and a 2 1/2 –inch pump to the city.
- B. Kammerer thanked Dan Geiger for tilling the plots for the community gardens and donating four yards of compost.

6. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

A. Downtown Parking Lot Loitering Discussion

Wallner stated that a local business owner asked what could be done about kids loitering and playing in the Madison Street municipal parking lot. Wallner stated that according to city code loitering is prohibited in the downtown area. He suggested asking the town deputies to enforce the code and have the city place signs in the area stating that no loitering is allowed. McDonald stated that he had visited with the kids twice in recent days and informed them of the city code. He told them they were allowed to gather in Pocket Park which is near the parking lot, but that they should help keep the area clean. Duske suggested the Park Commission come up with some ideas for making Pocket Park into an area for older youngsters.

DUSKE MOVED, KING SECONDED A MOTION TO DIRECT CITY STAFF TO POST NO LOITERING SIGNS IN MADISON STREET MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT AND HAVE THE CITY CODE ENFORCED BY CITY DEPUTIES. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORT**

A. Duske stated that he had been in on a discussion with the school district officials on the easement between the city, school and Terry Hartman. He stated that he is opposed to the proposed underpass at Paul Avenue. He believes it should be farther east and closer to the location of the future Community Park.

8. **CONSULTANTS' REPORTS**

A. Wetland Replacement Plan

Martini presented the information on the wetland replacement plan in conjunction with the County Road 20 project. He stated that bid opening for the County Road 20 project will be May 18 with a recommendation to the Council May 25. The proposed County Road 20 project will impact 17,430 square feet of wetland; of which 11,724 sq. ft. qualifies for BWSR road replacement. Required replacement is proposed through the purchase of wetland bank credits from the Terry Dean Wetland Bank for approximately \$4,500.

DUSKE MOVED, KING SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE WETLAND REPLACEMENT PLAN AS RELATED TO THE COUNTY ROAD 20 PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

B. Montgomery/Watertown Business Center easement

Martini stated that construction of the roundabout at Paul Avenue and County Road 20 will require permanent easements from adjacent property owners. An Easement Acquisition Memorandum of understanding was prepared for the properties owned by Watertown Business Center, LLC. Martini stated that the city has to maintain the access points to ensure safety at the intersection. He stated that approving the memorandum does not ensure that the underpass will be built.

MANN MOVED, DUSKE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EASEMENT ACQUISITION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF WATERTOWN AND WATERTOWN BUSINESS CENTER, LLC AS IT RELATES TO THE COUNTY ROAD 20 PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

C. Newton Avenue Apartment Sewer Connection

Wallner presented information to the Council about a request from the owner of Newton Avenue Apartments to have the city install a new sewer connection and assess the cost to him. Wallner stated that he would propose a five-year assessment if the Council approved the request. Wallner asked the Council for their opinion. Duske stated that there is a city ordinance that states the homeowner is responsible for any repairs from the home to the main. He stated that the apartment owner should be required to have the work done himself. Duske stated that the city would be setting a precedent that would open the door for others to make similar requests. Duske asked if a variance would be applicable in this case. Martini stated that the apartment owner is losing the access from his parking lot to County Road 20. Wallner stated that the assessment request may be a way for the apartment owner to seek compensation for the loss of the access.

McDonald stated that he didn't see a problem with the request and that it would be a way for the city to accommodate that business. King stated that the request seemed alright to her. Mann stated that if the apartment owner were a good business person, he would have made concessions to cover the costs of the sewer connection. He also is afraid of the city setting a precedent.

Wallner will bring the issue back to the Council after getting more information.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. McDonald stated that he had talked with school officials about proposed underpass and overpass in conjunction with the County Road 20 project.

10. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT

- A. King stated that she had attended the Commission on Aging meeting April 7 and participated in a walkability audit of one of the routes suggested by the city senior planner at the meeting. She presented her report and suggestions for improvements.

11. STAFF REPORTS

- A. City Administrator

1. Update on Administrator Search

Wallner commented on the packet that he had prepared for prospective administrator candidates which contained results of a survey of staff and council members along with information about the city. Mann and Duske asked if more of the comments from the survey could be added. Mann stated that a workshop should be held to go over the packet and comments in order to cover all bases before putting it out to prospective candidates. Wallner set a workshop for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 at City Hall.

D. Finance Director

1. Update on Audit

Wallner stated that the 2009 audit had to be pushed back due to personal issues and surgery he had on his hand. He stated that the auditors will be here in May and a presentation will be scheduled for the first council meeting in June.

2. Voucher list/claims roster

MANN MOVED, KING SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE VOUCHER LIST/CLAIMS ROSTER. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:57 PM.

ATTEST:

Steven Wallner
Clerk-Treasurer

K.J. McDonald
Mayor