

**MINUTES OF THE
WATERTOWN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

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, May 12, 2009** 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, Jodi Martinez, Rick Mann and Steven Duske. Council Member Earline King arrived during the presentation by Carver County Attorney James Keeler.

The following staff members were present: Senior Planner Crystal Foust and City Clerk-Treasurer and Finance Director Steven Wallner.

Also present were: Carver County Attorney James Keeler, Arnie Esterbrooks and Mike Brastad.

2. ADOPT AGENDA

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

3. REVIEW OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council minutes for April 28, 2009 meeting
- B. Pay request from Hoff, Barry & Kozar
- C. Acceptance of Tax Forfeit Property on Southview Street for trail
- D. Pay request from City Building Official

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

4. OPEN FORUM

5. CELEBRATE WATERTOWN

6. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- A. Carver County Attorney James Keeler countywide curfew

Keeler presented information about school safety, truancy and curfews. At the end of his presentation, Martinez asked the Council to consider comparing the city's curfew with the county curfew and discuss this at a future council meeting.

McDonald moved Item 11D2 to this spot on the agenda.

11. STAFF REPORTS

D. Finance Director

2. Building Permit Incentive Program

Arnie Esterbrooks of Rolling Green, Inc., developer of Forest Hills, approached the City regarding possible building permit incentives for new homes. Esterbrooks has reduced prices on select lots in Forest Hills and proposed affordable house designs. Staff put together three incentive programs. Esterbrooks stated that this incentive program will help the economy. He is asking for a 50% reduction in building permit fees. Wallner stated that it is a good idea to invest in the community. He stated that this would not do well on 100 homes, but 10 homes are very doable. King asked Esterbrooks which of the three city incentive programs he liked. Esterbrooks stated that he didn't think No. 2 would do much and that a combination of No. 1 and No. 3 would be good with reduction in fees and deferment for water, wastewater and storm water trunk charges.

The three incentive programs proposed by the city staff are: (1) Defer water, wastewater and storm water trunk charges (up to \$9000) for 90 days or when a certificate of occupancy is issued. (2) Assess the water, wastewater and storm water trunk charge (up to \$9000) for five years at no interest. (3) Reduce permit fee, plan check fee for city portion, a \$1,000 reduction on water and wastewater trunk charges and \$500 reduction on storm water trunk charge for first 10 new homes.

Duske stated that he is concerned about the reduction in water charge. He stated that \$1,000 is too much of a reduction because the city is low on revenue in the water fund and the trunk charges were going to be used to pay for the river crossing. He offered a fourth proposal: \$500 reduction in storm water, \$500 reduction in water, \$1,000 reduction in sewer and \$500 reduction in plan check fees along with 90 day deferment of water, wastewater and storm water trunk charges or when a certificate of occupancy is issued. Duske also suggested that Esterbrooks look at slab on grade house plans for Baby Boomers about to retire.

McDonald recessed the Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

McDonald reopened the Council meeting at 7:32 p.m.

MCDONALD MOVED, KING SECONDED A MOTION TO REDUCE WATER AND WASTEWATER TRUNK CHARGES BY \$1,000 EACH, REDUCE STORM WATER TRUNK CHARGE BY \$500 AND REDUCE BUILDING PERMIT FEES BY THE CITY PORTION ON 10 SPECIFIED LOTS IN FOREST HILLS DEVELOPMENT. WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORM WATER TRUNK CHARGES (UP TO \$9,000) WOULD BE DEFERRED FOR 90 DAYS OR WHEN A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS ISSUED. MOTION CARRIED 4-1 (DUSKE VOTED NAY).

Before the vote was taken, Mann stated that he would like to see the water reduction amount changed from \$1,000 to \$500.

B. Senior Planner

1. Community Park website (blog)

Foust presented the Council with information about a possible separate city website blog for the Community Park. She stated that people are not submitting e-mails on the city's current website, but would be more likely to make comments on the blog set up for the Community Park. Council members expressed interest in the blog and encouraged Foust to look into it.

- D. Finance Director

1. Request for approval of voucher list/claims roster

MARTINEZ MOVED, KING SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE VOUCHER LIST/CLAIMS ROSTER. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORT**
8. **CONSULTANTS' REPORTS**
9. **MAYOR'S REPORT**
10. **COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS**
11. **STAFF REPORTS**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM.

ATTEST:

Steven Wallner
Clerk-Treasurer

K.J. McDonald
Mayor