

Watseka City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor John Allhands at 6:55pm. Present were Aldermen Barragree, Marcier, Cahoe, Miller, Anderson, Muench, & Alderwoman Rohlf and DeLahr.

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Rohlf to Approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19th, 2023. Motion passed 8-0.

Public Comment-Angel Crawford from Iroquois Economic Development Association (IEDA) was in attendance. She passed out a handout and went over their 2023 fast facts.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Agreements & Proclamations

- **Ordinance #2702**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$3,027,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2018, of The City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois
- **Ordinance #2703**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$1,535,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019, of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois
- **Ordinance #2704**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$1,633,000 General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2021, of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County, Illinois
- **Ordinance #2705**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$1,551,645 General Obligation Bond, Series 2022A, of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois
- **Resolution**- IDOT Recycle In Place-Design, Construction Engineering Material Testing, Pavement Cores, and Construction \$600,000.00

Consent Agenda

- **Ordinance #2702**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$3,027,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2018, of The City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois
- **Ordinance #2703**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$1,535,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019, of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois
- **Ordinance #2704**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$1,633,000 General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2021, of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County, Illinois
- **Ordinance #2705**- Abating the 2023 Tax Year Debt Service Tax Levy for the \$1,551,645 General Obligation Bond, Series 2022A, of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois
- **Resolution**- IDOT Recycle In Place-Design, Construction Engineering Material Testing, Pavement Cores, and Construction \$600,000.00

A Motion was made by Barragree, seconded by Miller to set the Consent Agenda and accept removing Resolution. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by DeLahr Resolution- IDOT Recycle In Place-Design, Construction Engineering Material Testing, Pavement Cores, and Construction \$600,000.00. Keith from Robinson shared that the state assigns a section and that has not been done yet, this is just approving the dollar amount. Motion passed 8-0.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance, Legal and Audit**

A Motion was made by Marcier, seconded by Miller Claims in the amount of \$1,098,679.45 Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Anderson Accept and place on the file the December Treasurers report. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Marcier, seconded by Anderson ICOM Agreement \$126,000.00. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Miller, seconded by Cahoe Lee Farms \$12,400 to demolish 239 W Park Ave. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe seconded by Rohlf's Teska TIF Study \$20,000.00. Motion passed 8-0.

Public Works/Water Wastewater

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Marcier Reimburse Public Works and Water Employees gym membership of \$40 per month. Motion passed 6-2 with Alderman Anderson and Alderwoman DeLahr voting no. Alderwoman DeLahr shared that the employee gift card amounts went up, along with all the holidays that they get, they are out and about daily so they are getting exercise where the police are confined to their vehicle unless they are apprehending a suspect etc.

Public Safety

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Muench Staff Firehouse Monday-Friday 7a-7p beginning 2/1/2024. Motion passed 8-0.

Code Enforcement

A Motion was made by Rohlf's, seconded by Cahoe Façade Grant for \$5,000 to Yeraldo DeLeon for 1140 E. Walnut St. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Miller, seconded by Muench Façade Grant for \$5,000 to JR Developments 127 E. Walnut St. Motion passed 8-0.

Miscellaneous Business

Solar Farm-The mayor shared that there is a Solar farm Developer a mile and ½ west of the city, and the city has a say so in this. This is being put off until City Attorney Cainkar has more information.

Keith from Robinson shared that the lead service postcards were sent out, very little response back so they will be sending out another rounds of postcards for the inventory. This is an EP requirement with no cost to the city. Alderman Anderson shared that he feels a press release

needs to be issued so the citizens know that this is important, and it is not junk-mail. Scott will work with Carla on a press release.

Keith also shared that there will be a Public Hearing February 13th this is for the USDA, Keith is unable to attend he will have a prepared statement to be read in his absence.

Keith also reported the cost of the north street water main crossing, \$664,000.00 this is much higher than the regular bid the railroad had structural requirements that had to be done along with the unknown pipe that was found. This project also had to be manned for 24 hours.

The mayor wanted to give some praise to our department heads the rumor is that Watseka is not liked by other towns. There was a shooting in Sheldon that our PD helped capture and they helped on another incident. Fire Dept does a lot of training at their training facility and the mayor had seen the Fire Chief of Ashkum and he had nothing but good things to say about Watseka. Public Works have helped a few other towns with labor and equipment this shows that Watseka is a good neighbor props to all of them.

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by DeLahr to adjourn at 7:03pm. Motion passed 8-0.

Amanda Hibbs, City Clerk