

## Watseka City Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor John Allhands at 6:30pm. Present were Aldermen Barragree, Marcier, Cahoe, Miller, Anderson, Muench, & Alderwoman Rohlfs and DeLahr.

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Rohlfs to Approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Motion passed 8-0.

Public Comment-None

### **Ordinances, Resolutions, Agreements & Proclamations**

- **Ordinance #2706**-An Ordinance of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois Providing for the Sale of Surplus Personal Property
- **Ordinance #2707**- Amending Title 10, Water and Sewer Chapter 4, Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Rates and Charges, By Changing Section 10-4-2, Water and Sewer Rates for Commercial Users, and Section 10-4-3, Water and Sewer Rates for Residential Users, of the Watseka City Code

### **Consent Agenda**

- **Ordinance #2706**-An Ordinance of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois Providing for the Sale of Surplus Personal Property
  - **Ordinance #2707**- Amending Title 10, Water and Sewer Chapter 4, Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Rates and Charges, By Changing Section 10-4-2, Water and Sewer Rates for Commercial Users, and Section 10-4-3, Water and Sewer Rates for Residential Users, of the Watseka City Code
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- **Ordinance #2706**-An Ordinance of the City of Watseka, Iroquois County Illinois Providing for the Sale of Surplus Personal Property-Tabled until next month's Public Safety meeting.
  - **Ordinance #2707**- Amending Title 10, Water and Sewer Chapter 4, Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Rates and Charges, By Changing Section 10-4-2, Water and Sewer Rates for Commercial Users, and Section 10-4-3, Water and Sewer Rates for Residential Users, of the Watseka City Code. Lots of discussion was had Alderwoman DeLahr just wanted to clarify that rates were being increased for residential and commercial 3.5% for 5 years. Alderman Anderson shared that with the cost-of-living increase that there is no choice we can't kick the can down the road to do this if this is for infrastructure. Alderwoman DeLahr asked who analyzed this? Alderman Marcier shared this was the figure that was put out, this cost is less than inflation and by increasing 3% that won't keep up with cost. Alderman Marcier shared that it would be 35 cents per thousand gallons per year. Alderwoman DeLahr questioned what if that amount isn't used, they are being charged for it anyway are there any reductions? They are forced to pay a minimum fee. Alderwoman DeLahr shared we are encouraging businesses to come here but then we are sticking it to them. Mayor Allhands shared that he had spoken with Van about doing

a rate study however they are very expensive around \$25,000.00. Keith from Robinson went over the cost of the last 5 years previous projects. Loren Public Works Director shared that the city is playing catch up from the lack if increases over the years, get the work done now and save 5-10-15% down the road. These rates will go into effective 5-1-2024. A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Rohlfs. Motion passed 6-2 with Alderwoman DeLahr and Alderman Anderson voting no.

#### Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance, Legal and Audit**

A Motion was made by Marcier, seconded by Barragree Claims in the amount of \$390,872.10. Motion passed 8-0.

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

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Barragree Purchase a 2024 Ford Maverick from Watseka Ford for \$25,978.03 for Code. Motion passed 7-1 with Alderwoman DeLahr voting no.

A Motion was made by Barragree, seconded by Cahoe Transfer \$29,000 from general fund 1-10-8000 into audit fund 9-10-9000. Motion passed 8-0.

#### **Public Works/Water Wastewater**

Loren Public Works Director shared that the loader they were looking at had sold, so he gave an update. A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Marcier - Purchase a Cat 926 Wheel Loader from John Deere for \$181,515-pay from TIF 3, TIF 4, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and Garbage Fund equally. Motion passed 7-1 with Alderwoman DeLahr voting no.

#### **Public Safety**

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Miller Add Jonathon Carter to the Auxiliary Roster. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Rohlfs Standard & Associates Inc. \$1800 to do online Police Testing. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, Rohlfs Appoint Dawn Turcany to the Police & Fire Commission-3 year term ending 3/31/27. Motion passed 8-0.

#### **Code Enforcement**

None

#### **Miscellaneous Business**

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Miller Town Wide Garage Sales May 17 and 18 and August 9 and 10. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Miller Transfer money from General fund into the Park Fund \$100,000. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Barragree Donation to Iroquois Economic Development Association \$2500. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Miller, seconded by DeLahr Move March 19<sup>th</sup> Finance, Legal & Audit and Public Works/Water Wastewater Meetings to Monday March 18th due to the Election on the 19<sup>th</sup> with Loren having a replacement for him if he chooses. Motion passed 8-0.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Barragree CliftonLarsonAllen Engagement Letter for fiscal year audit \$41,750. Motion passed 8-0.

Mayor shared that Unit 9 has invited the council to a meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Unit 9 Office regarding TIF 3 extension he will confirm the date and time.

There is a new owner for the Uarco building. It has been purchased they are 95% done working on certificates of insurance. Alliance Poly Sacks could create 60 jobs. They do interweave plastic sacks.

March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm is a Planning Commission meeting here at City Hall.

A Motion was made by Cahoe, seconded by Barragree to adjourn at 7:04pm. Motion passed 8-0.

Amanda Hibbs, City Clerk