

MINUTES
REGULAR WASECA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

1. A. The Regular Waseca City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Randy Zimmerman at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present:	Mayor Randy Zimmerman	Mark Christiansen
	Jeremy Conrath	James Ebertowski
	John Mansfield	Stacey Schroeder

Councilmembers Absent: Daren Arndt

Staff Present: Carl Sonnenberg, Interim City Manager
Penny Vought, Police Chief
Jason Forshee, Fire Chief
Alicia Fischer, Finance Director
Nate Willey, City Engineer
Tina Wilson, PCED, Economic Development Manager
Bill Green, Planning and Zoning Coordinator

Conagra Representatives Present: Jeff Kraimer, Plant Manager
Adam Platt, Director Environmental Management

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. The Interim City Manager requested that item 7E be moved to 7A, and Councilmember Conrath asked that 6D be moved to the Action Agenda as item 7I. Motion to approve agenda as amended was made by Conrath, seconded by Schroeder. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Taylor Gates, 1109 9th Circle NW; spoke later in the meeting after the Announcements due to a scheduling error. He bought the parcel at 1005 N. State Street. He demolished the building that was there and had hoped to put up a coffee shop. He has worked with the city who have been very helpful. Once the plans were submitted to MNDot they said he could not have an entrance off State Street (Minnesota Highway 13) and would have to have access off of 11th Street. He feels that this puts the citizens of Waseca at risk and is unsafe where coming in and out from State Street would be the safer option.

REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. Conagra Presentation- Jeff Kraimer spoke on behalf of Conagra. They are looking to move from just the current April to November production to year-round production. To do this they would be adding additional vegetables as well as possibly ready-eat foods. They would like to start discussions on the wastewater needs for this growth. There is no set timeline on when the expansion would occur the conversations and reviews are just beginning.
- Schroeder made a motion to direct Staff to begin discussion with Conagra, seconded by Mansfield. Motion carried 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Motion to approve the amended consent agenda was made by Mansfield, seconded by Conrath. Motion carried 6-0.

ACTION AGENDA

- 7.
- A. Motion authorizing the ordering of the Waseca Fire Department tanker to replace the 1977 tanker (#522) was made by Conrath, seconded by Mansfield. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. City Council Board/Commission 2023 Appointments:
- Airport Board: Councilmember Schroeder
 - Economic Development Authority: Councilmember Mansfield and Mayor Zimmerman
 - Heritage Preservation Commission: Councilmember Ebertowski
 - Park Board: Councilmember Christiansen
 - Planning Commission: Councilmember Arndt
 - Fire Relief Association: Councilmember Conrath
 - Community Ed Advisory Board: Councilmember Christiansen
 - Region 9: Councilmember Ebertowski
 - Discover Waseca Tourism Board: Councilmembers Conrath and Schroeder
- Motion approving the appointments was made by Conrath, seconded by Ebertowski. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. Motion to approve Resolution 23-03. Warehouse Storage Variance Parcel A & D was made by Conrath, seconded by Ebertowski. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. Motion to approve Resolution 23-04. Warehouse Storage Variance Parcel B & C was made by Ebertowski, seconded by Conrath. Motion carried 6-0.
- E. Motion to approve the Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Union Contract 2023-2023 and letter of Agreement (LOA) was made by Conrath, seconded by Ebertowski. Motion carried 5-0. (Schroeder recused herself from the vote)
- Mayor Zimmerman directed Staff to discuss with the City Attorney the policies for Council to be in Union contract discussions.
- Mayor Zimmerman also directed Staff to coordinate presentations with Department Heads at future work sessions.
- F. Motion to approve Final Payment for the Sanitary Lining Project (City Project 2022-11) with the additional two-year warranty was made by Conrath, seconded by Ebertowski. Motion carried 6-0.
- G. Motion to authorize the Request for Proposal (RFP) for 8th Ave NE Project (City Project 2024-01) was made by Schroeder, seconded by Conrath. Motion carried 6-0.
- H. Motion was made to approve the Cogeneration and Small Power Production Tariff (Solar Electric Rates was made by Conrath, seconded by Mansfield. Motion carried 6-0.
- 6D I Motion to approve O'Connor Airport Land Lease Agreement was made by Ebertowski, seconded by Conrath. Motion carried 6-0.

REPORTS

8.

A. Interim City Manager's Report:

- i. The aerators on Loon Lake are on and per the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been flagged.

B. Commission Reports:

- i. Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was reported by Tina Wilson, PCED, City Economic Development Manager. The HPC is working on a Certified Local Government Grant. This grant will allow for the School District to offer a course to get students interested in Historic Waseca. One area the class that will be working with the HPC will be adding 20 stops to the current walking tour as the students research the history of the buildings downtown. Just in updating the walking tour they are hoping to bring more traffic into Waseca. HPC is fundraising the cash match.
- ii. Economic Development Authority (EDA) was reported on by Councilmember Mansfield. The EDA spoke about Northwest Char which is a business that reuses solid plant waste as fuel, there is talk about it connecting them with Conagra at some point to have conversations. There is no update on TPG Steel.
There was an update on training that the EDA approved for the Economic Development Manager to attend using funds from the Recovery Coordinator Grant.
- iii. Tourism Board was reported by Councilmembers Conrath and Mansfield. They appointed the officers for the year.
The Dream Catchers, large kites, are scheduled to be back in Waseca February 19th.
They are working on QR codes to go into Bars, Restaurants, Specialty Shops in Waseca, more to come on that.
- iv. Park Board was reported on by Councilmember Christiansen. Gaiter Lake Park planning continues. Discussed winter maintenance with the snow coming that should be fun. They are not opening Hartley Skating rink this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.

A. Councilmember Mansfield:

- i. Wanted to welcome Mayor Zimmerman.

B. Councilmember Schroeder:

- i. Wanted to also welcome Mayor Zimmerman.
- ii. Thank you to the Waseca Chamber and the other sponsors for the Dueling Pianos it was a great event.

C. Councilmember Conrath:

- i. Reminder that the Annual Fire Committee event was taking place, everyone encouraged to attend after the meeting.
- ii. Thank you to the Citizens of Waseca for being on the Boards and Commissions for the City. There are current openings on the Planning and Zoning Commission if anyone is interested.
- iii. He would like to continue the tradition of former Councilmember Al Rose and in support of City Staff would like to provide them a lunch annually that coincides with their insurance open enrollment day, and if any other Councilmember would like to join him that would be appreciated.


D. Mayor Zimmerman:

- i. He along with Councilmembers Ebertowski and Schroeder will be attending the League of Minnesota Cities newly Elected Officials Cohort in Mankato in February.
- ii. In July he will be attending a meeting with Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) in Thief River Falls.
- iii. He would also like to schedule a work session to discuss goals for the Council. It was agreed by majority to schedule for Tuesday January 31st, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

ADJOURNMENT

10. There being no further business to be brought before the Council, it was moved by Schroeder to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Conrath. Motion carried 6-0.



JULIA HALL
CITY CLERK

RANDY L. ZIMMERMAN
MAYOR