

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 29, 2023

Minutes of the special meeting held on November 29, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. Present were Council Members Kenny Liebel, Bethany Devlin, Chelsea Bulzomi, Steve Sanford, and Lance Renville. Absent was Mayor Phil Riely and Matt Beard. Also present was City Administrator Curt Moen, City Auditor Peni Peterson, and City Attorney Wyatt Voll. Council President Liebel called the meeting to order.

Chief Wellen presented information on the Back the Blue Grant that was received from the State of North Dakota. The Watford City Police Department was awarded \$32,645 to be used towards law enforcement recruitment bonuses, law enforcement retention bonuses, and tuition payment for law enforcement trainees. Chief Wellen proposed the award be used for retention bonuses and utilize the same matrix as the city vacation accrual categories to disburse the award.

Council Member Bulzomi moved to approve the matrix presented for retention bonuses to be paid to sworn officers on the next payroll. Motion seconded by Council Member Devlin and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Bulzomi, Sanford, Renville, Devlin, and Leibel; nays: none.

Vawnita Best presented four Letters of Support and requested President Liebel be approved to sign them.

Council Member Devlin moved to approve President Liebel sign the Letters of Support for Northern Border Pipeline Company – The Bison Xpress Project, Dakota Access Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alexander Daycare, and North Dakota Department of Commerce – Regional Workforce Impact Program. Motion seconded by Council Member Sanford and carried unanimously.

Attorney Voll informed the City Council that the City of Watford City was named as a potential member of the classes in the 3M and Dupont PFAS class action lawsuits and is requesting guidance as to how to proceed. The city may opt out of the classes and therefore the lawsuits or remain as a member of the classes. Discussion was had regarding the pros and cons of both, the limited impact to date of any PFAS in the drinking water supply, the finality of either decision regarding future PFAS issues with the drinking water, and the uncertainty of the amount of money that would be distributed to the city if the proposed settlement agreements are approved by the Courts.

Council Member Bulzomi moved to remain in the 3M and Dupont PFAS class action lawsuits as a member of the classes. Motion seconded by Council Member Sanford and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Renville, Devlin, Sanford, Bulzomi, and Liebel; nays: none.

Council Member Sanford moved to approve President Liebel to sign the Hunters Run Instructions to Pay Funds in Escrow. Motion seconded by Council Member Devlin and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Pursuant to NDCC 40-01-09.1, these minutes are published subject to the City Council's Review and Revision.

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Peni Peterson, City Auditor

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Philip K Riely, Mayor