

City Council
January 3, 2024
5:30 pm

The Atlantic City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Garrett presiding. Upon roll call, the following were present: Mayor Garrett, Ward 1 Council Kennedy, Ward 2 Council Behrens, Ward 3 Council McDermott, Ward 4 Council Sarsfield, Ward 5 Council Halder, At Large Council Brink, At Large Council Otte, Engineer Dave Sturm, City Administrator Lund, City Clerk Barrick. Absent: None.

Motion by Brink; second by Halder to approve agenda as posted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Behrens; second by McDermott to approve consent agenda as follows: Minutes of the December 20, 2023, City Council meeting; Class E Retail Alcohol license for Olsen's BP; and bills totaling \$204,903.56. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Halder; second by Brink to approve First Whitney Bank & Trust as the City's Official Bank for the City checking account for 2024. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Otte; second by Sarsfield to approve the Atlantic News Telegraph as the City's official newspaper for legal publications in 2024. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Forum: None.

Administrator's Report: Still optimistic about 2024, but it is off to a rough start. Assessed valuations were up 25.32%- this will increase the city's borrowing capacity and debt to value ratio; however, with HF 718, Atlantic will get a 2% growth maximum resulting in a \$34,000 increase in general fund dollars. This will have no effect on Economic Development. Lund then played two videos regarding the passage of HF 718. Should have health insurance renewal rates next week.

Mayors report: In response to Administrator Lund's report, Mayor Garrett advised that the city will do its best to manage what it receives. She further stated that now that the holidays are over, it is time to hit the floor running – to get back to schedule and finish up Emergency Management and Personnel Policies. There will be a council workshop held January 24th, and the March 6th Council meeting will be moved to March 5th due to Local Leaders' Day at the Iowa State Capitol.

Council Member Otte reported on the Governor's Budget Public Hearing.

Motion by McDermott; second by Otte to enter Exempt Session Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) Providing for the Strategy Meetings of Public Employers for Collective Bargaining. All ayes. Motion carried. Council entered exempt session at 5:54 p.m.

Motion by Behrens; second by Halder to end Exempt Session and re-enter open session. All ayes. Motion carried. Council re-entered open session at 7:09 p.m.

Council then discussed how HF 718 may affect other cities of similar size to Atlantic.

Motion by Halder; second by Behrens to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Grace N. Garrett, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Barb Barrick, City Clerk