MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL

March 12, 2024

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at City Hall at 6:00 pm. The following officers were present: Toni Buchite, Mayor; Gary Staples, Jill Radman and Randy Zeigler, (Mark Bradley, absent) Council Members; Ann Raph, City Clerk; Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk, Chad Wosmek, Maintenance Supervisor, Diana Buchite, Liquor Manager, Jesse Anderson, Assistant Fire Chief.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Buchite requested 4 additions to the March Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. RADMAN AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEILGER TO ADD RECINDING THE MOTION N RENEWING CDS # 1607, #2436, #1601 UNDER CONSENT AGENDA, APPROVAL TO HIRE CITY ENGINEER TO ASSESS NEIGHBORING CORNER LOT WATER DRAINAGE UNDER PARKS, UPDATE ON NORTHGATE LANE RESURFACING UNDER ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE, DONATION REQUEST LETTER FROM CROW WIG COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIET UNDER MAYOR’S REPORT**. When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Mayor Buchite requested consideration of the consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes for Regular Meeting February 13, 2024; Treasurer’s Report: Payment of bills in the amount of $101,442.79 including Check No# 50552 through No #50634; Rescind motion to renew CD’s #1607, #2436, #1601; Fire and Rescue Minutes.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. RADMAN AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Mr. Staples questioned why the motion for the CD renewals was being rescinded and Ms. Raph stated the maturity date was inaccurately recorded and the CDs will be maturing in May. When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

New Business/Critical Issues: Jordan Larson from Crow Wing County Road Department updated the council on the 2025 plan to resurfacing County Road 1 from Manhattan Beach to Highway 6. The project will consist of a mill and overlay, culvert replacement to help with draining issues, concrete approach panels will be added with a potential detour and adding right turn lanes and bypass lanes. Mr. Larson also stated that MNDOT did a speed study from Cass County to Evergreen Drive in Emily and determined that the speed limit should be 55 mph along that stretch.

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Burslie, in a staff report, informed the council on two zoning department updates. Councilor Staples and himself met with Aaron Johnson, Director of Golf and Grounds at Golden Eagle regarding 2023 environmental testing results and plans at the golf course for 2024. The test results were normal and consistent with results from previous years. There are no major changes planned for the course in 2024. Councilor Bradley and planning Commission Chairperson, Bob Stancer, met with the Crow Wing County Board at their Committee of the Whole meeting regarding a potential easement for a 55’ tall pole with weather siren on tax forfeited property located adjacent to Kego Lake Road. Ms. Raph update the council that The Crow Wing County board approved the siren 20’x 20’ easement and 10’ utility easement at their meeting on March 12th.

Parks: Ms. Raph asked for approval to have the grant writer, Ms. Prem, to apply for the Initiative Foundation Grant for the park project.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. RADMAN AND SECONDED BY MR. STAPLES TO APPLY FOR THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION GRANT FOR PARK IMPROVEMENT**. When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

The council discussed hiring the city engineer to assess neighboring corner lot water drainage issue before potential purchasing. The council decided to table the discussion until further information is gathered.

Public Safety: **MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. STAPLES TO APPOINT B. MILESKI AND D. ENG TO THE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT PENDING A BACKGROUND CHECK.** When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried. Assistant Fire Chief, Jesse Anderson, requested approval to purchase six air packs ($57,371.18), updated cascade system ($ 13,373.78) and general supplies for all apparatus ie; hoses, helmet lights, mobile hose drying rack, flare kit, etc. ($10,016.00).

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. STAPLES TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE REQUEST FROM FIRE AND RESCUE OF AIR PACKS, UPDATED CASCADE SYSTEM AND GENERAL SUPPLES FOR ALL APPARATUS TO TOTAL $80,760.96.** When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried. Mr. Anderson also requested the approval of the Fire and Rescue Bylaw Amendments; removal of the “50/50” meetings and calls section; grammatical errors were corrected; increasing yearly pension amount to $2,500. The council decided to table the approval until a budget could be reviewed for the increased pension amount.

Road Construction and Maintenance: Mr. Wosmek, Maintenance Supervisor, requested to table the approval of a contract with Corbin Excavating for magnesium chloride until he can get additional quotes. The council agreed. Mr. Wosmek updated the council on the Northgate Lane drilling samples and stated that the resurfacing will be postponed until 2025 when Crow Wing County is scheduled to resurface County Road 1.

Liquor Store: Liquor profit and loss report was reviewed with a loss for the month of February with a gross profit of 56.9%. D. Buchite reported that cutting hours, adding events and scaling back on inventory has help to decrease the net profit loss to -17.4%. Mr. Zeigler and D. Buchite state that the lack of snow and ice has decreased business but with the adjustments that were made have great hopes for the spring season. The bar along with the help of the Fifty Lakes Fire Department are making a float for the Crosslake St. Patrick’s Day parade. There will be a kickoff party Friday, March 15th and Corn Beef and Cabage sold on Saturday, March 16th, and 2 for 1 Tap beer Sundays. D. Buchite requested approval for herself, Kim Tuchek (lead bartender) and Randy Ziegler (council liaison) to attend the Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association Annual Conference on April 20th to April 23rd, 2024.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MS. RADMAN TO APRIVE D. BUCHITE, K. TUCKEK, R. ZIEGLER TO ATTEND THE MMBA COFERENCE APRIL 20TH – 23RD IN ALEXANDRIA WITH WAGE, ROOM, MEALS AND MILAGE REIMBURSMENT.** When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MS. RADMAN TO CANCEL ADVERTISING FOR FIFTY LAKES BAR AND BOTTLE SHOP ON CHANNEL 698 THROUGH TREMELO**. When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

Mayor’s Report: Ms. Raph discussed with the council the opportunity to apply for the Sourcewell Community Impact Funds. The council requested a round table with department heads and council members to discuss the application.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. RADMAN AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEILGER TO APPROVE TO CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR SOURCEWELL MATCHING FUNDS.** When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. RADMAN AND SECONDED BY MR. STAPLES TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FROM NORTH STAR FIREOWRKS FOR FIFTY LAKES DAY.** When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried. The council discussed insurance agents for the League of MN Cities insurance policies.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND MR. ZEIGLER TO CHANGE INSURANCE AGENTS FROM WEIZENEGGER ENGEL INSURANCE TO LAKES CENTRAL INSURANCE**. When polled: Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Staples, aye; Ms. Radman, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye (Mr. Bradley absent). Motion carried.

Purchasing/Personnel: Council discussed the mileage policy. Ms. Raph and D. Buchite will rework the mileage policy and present it at the next council meeting.

Adjourn: MOTION MADE BY MR. ZEIGLER AND SECONDED BY MS. RADMAN TO ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk