MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL

January 14th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at City Hall at 6:00 pm. The following officers were present: Gary Staples, Mayor, Juan Cabrera, Toni Buchite (via interactive technology: out of state), Mark Bradley (via interactive technology: out of state), Jill Radman (absent, resigned) Council Members; Ann Raph, City Clerk; Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk; Chad Wosmek, Maintenance Supervisor; Emily Brodhead, Municipal Liquor Manager; Justin Burslie, Planning & Zoning Administrator; Jesse Anderson, Fire Chief.

Mayor Staples requested approval of the January Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. CABRERA AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO APPROVE AGENDA.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye: Ms. Radman (absent, resigned). Motion carried.

Open Forum: Colleen Ferguson expressed concerns about punishment for employees when they may not have been informed or trained properly, urges council to consider the assets the employee provides. Pete King states employee was not aware of breaking any laws.

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes for Regular Meeting December 10th, Special Meeting December 20th; Treasurer’s Report: Payment of bills in the amount of $163,479.96 including Check No# 51523 to #51606; Fire and Rescue Minutes, Resolutions 2025-03 for FRA Donation; Amended Resolution 2024-18 Election Results, Delegation Agreement (AIS) with the DNR.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye; Ms. Radman (absent, resigned). Motion carried.

New Business/Critical Issues:

**MOTION MADE BY MR. CABRERA AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGATIONS OR CHARGES AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO THE COUNCIL’S AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUE 13D.05, SUBD.2(B).** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye; Ms. Radman (absent, resigned). Motion carried. The meeting closed at 6:07 pm. The meeting reopened at 6:28 pm.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES THAT DISCIPLINE IS WARRANTED**. When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye; Ms. Radman (absent, resigned). Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO TERMINATE BRITTANY RONNEBERG FROM EMPLOYMENT AT THE 50 LAKES BAR AND BOTTLE SHOP, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. The council discussed alternative discipline action. When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, nay; Mr. Bradley, aye; Ms. Radman (absent, resigned). Motion carried.

Mayor Staples requests acceptance of the resignation of council member, Jill Radman.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JILL RADMAN, COUNCIL MEMBER.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried. Opening for vacant council position to be posted in the Crosby Courier, City website and City Facebook page.

Mayor Staples requests discussion of the following Mayoral Appointments for 2025.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO HIRE GAMMELLO-PEARSON ATTORNEYS AT LAW AS THE CITY ATTORNEY.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2025:**

1. Acting Mayor – Mark Bradley
2. Official Newspaper – Crosby Courier
3. Emergency Management – Mark Bradley
4. Committee Assignments
5. Roads, Maintenance & Weed Inspector – Mark Bradley
6. Public Safety (Fire & Rescue) - All
7. Parks – Toni Buchite
8. Liquor Store – Mayor Gary Staples
9. Purchasing & Personnel – Mayor Gary Staples
10. Planning & zoning – Juan Cabrera

5. Finance – Depositories: First Western Bank & Trust, First National Bank, Pine River State Bank

Electronic Funds Transfer Resolution

6. City Engineer: Bolton & Menk

7. City Attorney: Gammello-Pearson (Tom Pearson)

**Planning & Zoning Commission:**

Bob Stancer (12/27) Don Reierson (12/27) Mike Milbrath (12/25)

Gary Oster (12/27) Fred Strohmeier (12/25)

**Fire & Rescue Executive Review Board:**

Keith Fitzpatrick Ed Shetka IV

Jesse Anderson Ken Hersey (Community Member)

All (Council Liaison) Ann Raph (Recording Only/ Not a voting member)

**Forestry Committee:**

Mark Bradley Fred Strohmeier Mike Prouty

**FLLP – Fifty Lakes Lake Improvement Committee:**

Bob Stancer Fred Strohmeier

Ken Neihart Mark Bradley (Council Member)

Ann M. Raph

**Fifty Lakes Day Committee:**

Ann Raph Toni Buchite Lori Crawford

Ronda Veit Emily Brodhead Kim Tuchek

Jessica Istvanovich

**Park Committee:**

Toni Buchite Marilyn Mckeehan

Jenna Fitcher Ann Raph

When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-01 AUTHORIZING MAYOR GARY STAPLES, ACTING MAYOR MARK BRADLEY AND CLERK TREASURER ANN RAPH SIGNATORY POWER FOR THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR THE CITY OF FIFTY LAKES: FIRST WESTERN BANK & TRUST, FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND PINE RIVER STATE BANK FOR INVESTMENT FUNDS AND GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT AT PINE RIVER STATE BANK AND RESOLUTION 2025-02 EFT TRANSACTIONS, AND APPROVE FEES FOR 2025 (PHOTOCOPING, FAX, NOTARY, MILAGE, COMMUNITY CENTER/PAVILION RENTALS FEES, CELL PHONE STIPENDS).** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Burslie requested the council to consider creating a new classification zone of “Public” district to include City Hall, City property, parks, DNR boat landings, etc. Mr. Burslie requests that if the council is interested in proceeding to pass a motion initiating the zoning ordinance amendment process to create a Public zoning district.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY INITIATING THE ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PROCESS TO CREATE A PUBLIC ZONING DISTRICT.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE 2025 ZONING FEES.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO ACCEPT THE 2025 SOURCEWELL AGREEMENT.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

Parks: Ms. Raph informs council that splash pad equipment will start to be delivered in early February.

Fire & Rescue: Jesse Anderson reported 1 fire call and 3 medical calls in the month of December. Total for 2025 year of 77 calls. Mr. Anderson states that he is working on obtaining bids for turnout gear for new members and updated pagers and radios. Ms. Raph informed council that the pension amount for fire and rescue is due in 2025 in the amount of $15,899.

Road Construction and Maintenance: Mr. Wosmek presented three (3) bids for grader blades.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO PURCHASE GRADER BLADES FROM H & L MESABI IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,092.40 WITH THE ADDITION OF $500.00 FOR ANY SHIPPING COSTS.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-04 APPROVING COUNTY PROJECT WITHIN MUNICIPAL LIMITS.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried.

Liquor Store: Ms. Raph reviewed the profit and Loss report for the 2024 year with the council. The bar had a gross profit of 53.9% in the month of December and net profit for the year 2024 is 6.9%. The council discussed the additional wages added to clerk, deputy clerk and lead bartender’s wages after the hiring of new liquor manager. Discussion to carry increases until the end of January.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE A CELL PHONE STIPEND OF $35.00 PER MONTH FOR EMILY BRODHEAD, MUNICIPAL LIQUOR MANAGER.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried

Mayor’s Report: None.

Purchasing/ Personnel: Mayor Staples invites all council members to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Elected Leaders Institute training.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO ALLOW ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE LMC ELECTED LEADERS INSTITUTE TRAINING WITH REIMBURSMENT FOR MILEAGE AND HOTEL ROOM TO BE PAID BY THE CITY.** When polled: Mayor Staples, aye; Mr. Cabrera, aye; Ms. Buchite, aye; Mr. Bradley, aye. Motion carried. The council discussed 2025 COLA of 2.5%. Council requests to see comparisons of what other cities are adopting.

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Adjourn: MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND MS. BUCHITE TO ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk

**Amended: March 11, 2025**