MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL

April 8th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at City Hall at 6:00 pm. The following officers were present: Gary Staples, Mayor; Juan Cabrera, Mark Bradley, Randy Zeigler, Toni Buchite, Council Members; Ann Raph, City Clerk; Emily Brodhead, Municipal Liquor Manager; Jesse Anderson, Fire Chief.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mayor Staples requested two (2) additions and two (2) deletions to the April Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ADD REIVEWING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UNDER PURCHASING AND PERSONNEL, ADD PURCHASE REQUESTS UNDER FIRE & RESCUE, REMOVAL MARCH 11TH MEETING MINUTES AND REMOVAL OF REQUESTING A DRAW FROM SWIFT FOR DNR GRANT.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum:

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting March 19th Special Meeting April 1st; Treasurer’s Report: Payment of bills in the amount of $138,026.95 including Check No# 51794 to #51886; Fire and Rescue Minutes.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

New Business/Critical Issues:

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO MOVE THE CD #6595 for $21,025.90 FROM FIRST NATION BANK TO FIRST WESTERN BANK FOR 12 MONTHS AT 4.25%.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Staples presented a notice of Special Primary Election on April 15th and Special General Election on April 29th to fill Vacant Minnesota Senate District 6 Seat.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE 2024 AUDIT AS PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 11TH COUNCIL MEETING**. When polled: All members vote aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed a recommendation by the Planning Commission to waive the “After-the-Fact” Fee for a Land Use Permit on parcel 22360502, 39823 Buchite Rd for Samantha Barber.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO WAIVE THE “AFTER-THE-FACT” FEE OF $1,000.00 FOR A LAND USE PERMIT FOR PROPERTY OWNER SAMANTHA BARBER AT 39823 BUCHITE LANE.** When polled: All members vote aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Mayor Staples recapped the Planning Commissions regular meeting on March 25th, 2025, at which one (1) public hearing was held. There have been nine (9) approved Land Use Permits, two (2) Variances, one (1) Conditional Use Permit, one (1) Interim Use Permit, one (1) subdivision/Metes & Bounds, one (1) Zoning Map Amendment and one (1) Ordinance Amendment as of April 2025.

Parks: Ms. Buchite, Ms. Raph, and Mayor Staples had a walk through with contractors for the splash pad. The council discussed the placement of the second pickleball court and shade structure and concerns about deviating from the plans that were established to obtain the DNR grant. Ms. Raph will gather more information on the grant stipulations. No action was taken. The council discussed the possibilities of renting out or reserving the pickleball courts for events. The council agreed to keep it open to the public with no option to reserve the courts. No action was taken.

Fire & Rescue: Jesse Anderson reported six (6) medical and one (1) fire calls for the month of March. Mr. Anderson requested purchases for the following equipment: six (6) batteries from Brandon Communications at $160 per battery to extend life of old radios, three (3) sets of turnout gears at an approximate cost of $12,400 for three Fire & Rescue members who have successfully passed all classes required, six (6) backpacks for wildfire containment at a cost of $300 each from Great Plains Fire.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTEMNT TO SPEND UP TO $17,000.00 TO PURCHASE SIX (6) BATTERIES, THREE (3) SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR, SIX (6) BACKPACKS**. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Road Construction and Maintenance: Mr. Staples informed the council that city staff are still obtaining three (3) bids for the community center boiler.

Liquor Store: Liquor profit and loss report was reviewed with a gross profit of 57.1% in the month of March. The bar’s net profit for the year is -15.7%. Ms. Brodhead updated the council on staff training, the first quarter variance report for off sale, and working with the POS system support to get an iPad set up for outside/ patio ordering. Ms. Brodhead requested the council to approve hiring a new part-time bartender and a part-time cook.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO HIRE PATTY MILLER AS A PART-TIME BARTENDER AT THE RATE OF $11.13 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO HIRE KATHERINE MILLER AS A PART TIE COOK AT $17.00 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Purchasing/ Personnel: The council discussed hiring Chester Borntreger for Maintenance Supervisor position.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO OFFER THE POSITION OF MAINTENACE SUPERVISOR TO CHESTER BORNTREGER AT $29.00 PER HOUR TO INCUDE BENEFITS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE GARY STAPLES, RANDY ZEIGLER, JESSE ANDERSON, JODY BLUHM, BELINDA YURICK, BOB, STANCER, GINA ANDERSON, AND TOM STOBER TO FORM A FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER/ FIRE HALL BUILDING.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor Staples to schedule a meeting for the Feasibility Committee within the month of April.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. CABRERA AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE TWO (2) CPR/ AED CLASSES FOR ALL CITY AND BAR STAFF, CITY COUNCIL, AND RESIDENTS OF FIFTY LAKES TO BE HELD AT CITY OF FIFTY LAKES COMMUNITY CENTER**. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BILL BRIGHT, PART TIME MAINTENANCE**. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO HAVE THE CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council discussed road rights-of-way and easements on North Eagle Lake Rd and how to obtain a prescriptive easement on the cul-de-sac. Ms. Raph to speak with the attorney for more information.

The city offices will be closed at Noon on Thursday, April 10th and Thursday, April 24th for the Special Election equipment testing.

Adjourn: **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO ADJOURN**. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

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Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk