MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL

May 13th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, May 13, 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; Chester Borntreger, Maintenance Supervisor; Emily Brodhead, Municipal Liquor Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mayor Staples requested two (2) additions to the May Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO ADD APPLYING CALCIUM CHLORIDE ON DAGGETT CREEK DRIVE AND HIRING A PART-TIME MAINTENCE WORKER UNDER ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum: Patty Miller, resident, presented the council and fire department with a donation of $85.25 which were proceeds from a cookie bake sale made by Katie Miller and Dakota Wibbe. The council thanked the Miller Family for the donation to the Fifty Lakes Fire Department.

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes from March 11th and April 8th; Treasurer’s Report: Payment of bills in the amount of $119,627.59 including Check No# 51887 to #52001; Fire and Rescue Minutes.

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

New Business/Critical Issues: Tom Pearson, City Attorney, discussed with the council the process of acquiring the Fifty Lakes Foundation property. Mr. Pearson suggested the first step should be to contact a member of the foundation to obtain more information on the status of the nonprofit.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO INVESTIGATE WHAT THE PROCESS WOULD BE FOR THE CITY TO AQUIRE THE FIFTY LAKES FOUNDATION PROPERTY.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council discussed road easements and prescriptive rights for dead end roads in Fifty Lakes that the city has been maintaining. Mr. Pearson advised the council to setup a meeting with Mr. Bradley, Ms. Raph and himself to gather more information on specific road easements and Cul de sacs.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO SETUP A MEETING WITH MR. BRADLEY, MS. RAPH AND MR. PEARSON TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ROAD EASEMENTS, CUL DE SAC AND PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHTS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Soderlund requested via a memo read by Mayor Staples to establish a subcommittee to review and recommend an ordinance regarding cannabis regulations. The establishment of this subcommittee is essential to ensure that the city of Fifty Lakes develops a comprehensive, fair, and effective approach to cannabis regulations. The subcommittee is proposed to be comprised of the following: one member of City Council, Bob Stancer (Planning Commission Chair), a city clerk, Bethany Soderlund, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND AN ORDIANCE REGARDING CANNABIS REGULATIONS WITH THE FOLLWING MEMBERS: TONI BUCHITE (CITY COUNCIL MEMBER), BOB STANCER (PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR), CITY OR DEPUTY CLERK, AND BETHANY SODERLUND (PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR).** When Polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Raph stated Golden Eagle Golf Course has submitted the appropriate paperwork and requested a motion to approve issuing a liquor license.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. CABRERA AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE ISSUING GOLDEN EAGLE GOLF COURSE A LIQUOR LICENSE.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed Ordinance 95-01 regarding the timeline of the issuing liquor licenses. Ms. Raph stated that currently the license starts on July 1st and expires on June 30th of the next year. Ms. Raph requests this be changed to start January 1 and expire December 31st, one calendar year.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO INITIATE THE AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR ORDINANCE 95-01 TO CHANGE THE ISSUING DATE OF LIQUOR LICENSING.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Raph updated the council on the Fifty Lakes Day, June 21st 2025. Ms. Raph discussed with council the possibility of putting a temporary bridge over the rain garden and placing the inflatables on Town Hall Road. No action was taken.

The council reviewed 4 CDs renewals: #3344 for $53,895.63 (First Western Bank), #3387 for $67,817.69 (First Western Bank), #6432 for $105,264.38 (First National Bank), and #3693 for $104,425.25 (Pine River State Bank).

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO RENEW CDS #3344 ($53,895.63) AND #3387 ($67,817.69) AT FIRST WESTERN BANK FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS AT AN APR OF 4.25%, TO MOVED CD #6432 ($105,264.38) TO FIRST WESTERN BANK FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS AT AN APR OF 4.25%, AND TO MOVE CD #3693 ($104,425.25) TO FIRST NATIONAL BANK FOR SEVEN (7) MONTHS AT AN APR OF 4.25%.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Soderlund reported to council via memo: The Planning Commissions held a regular meeting on April 22th, 2025, at which two (2) public hearing was held; Interim Use Permit 05-25 (APPROVED) AND Conditional Use Permit 06-25 (APPROVED), along with two (2) Metes & Bounds Lot Split 07-25 (APPROVED) and 08-25 (APPROVED). There have been thirteen (13) approved Land Use Permits, three (3) Variances, one (1) SSTS, one (1) Conditional Use Permit, one (1) Interim Use Permit, two (2) subdivision/Metes & Bounds, one (1) Zoning Map Amendment and two (2) Ordinance Amendment as of May 2025.

Parks: The council reviewed two (2) bids from Wannebo Excavating and Cass County Construction to replace the drain field in the park for the construction of a new pickleball court.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM WANNEBO EXCAVATING TO INSTALL A NEW SEPTIC DRAIN FIELD AT A COST OF $3,160.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Fire & Rescue: Mr. Zeigler reported for the month of April there was only one CO2 call which happened to be a false alarm. Mr. Zeigler stated that a CPR class will be held on May 15th at 6 pm at the community center. Ms. Buchite highly encourages all staff to attend. A second class will be scheduled at some point in the future to accommodate more people.

Road Construction and Maintenance: Mayor Staples requested approval to give Chester Borntreger a cell phone stipend.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE CHESTER BORNTREGER A $35 PER MONTH CELL PHONE STIPEND.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed three (3) quotes for replacing the community center boiler from Maverick’s Heating and Air, North Country Plumbing and Heating, and Crosslake Sheetmetal Heating and Air.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR REPLACING THE COMMUNITY CENTER BOILER FROM CROSSLAKE SHEETMETAL HEATING AND AIR WITH THE ADDITION OF AUTO FILL FOR A TOTAL COST OF $9,543.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council discussed adding Daggett Creek Drive to the list of roads that get dust treatment.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO INCLUDE THE FIRST 800FT OF DAGGETT CREEK DRIVE TO RECEIVE CALCIUM CHLORIDE FOR DUST PREVENTION.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Bradley stated the need for another part-time maintenance person. The council discussed advertising for the position or the possibility of hiring internally.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO HIRE RICK CRAWFORD AS PART TIME MAINTENCE WORKER STARTING AT $21.00 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the quote from Anderson Brothers to apply an overlay on Northgate Lane up to the City of Fifty Lakes city limit.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE BID FROM ANDERSON BROTHERS FOR AN OVERLAY ON THE CITY OF FIFTY LAKES PORTION OF NORTHGATE LANE FOR $99,947.00 PLUS AN ADDITIONAL $5,000.00 FOR SHOULDER TACKING, TOTAL PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED $105,000.00 AND TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE 2025 CONSTRUCTION SEASON.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed two (2) bids for HVAC and refrigeration maintenance contracts for the bar and liquor store from SCR and Graham Refrigeration.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. ZEIGLER AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FROM GRAHAM REFRIGERATION FOR THE BAR AND LIQUOR STORE AT A COST OF $925.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Liquor Store: Liquor profit and loss report was reviewed with a gross profit of 69.9% in the month of April. The bar’s net profit for the year to date is -10.1%. Ms. Brodhead reported that the Adult Easter Party and Cinco De Derby were a big hit and she has a Summer Kick off Party for Memorial weekend including a live feed from R & J Broadcasting and live music by Gigfoot on Sunday, May 25th. Ms. Brodhead is actively looking for additional kitchen staff and bartenders and updating the POS system to take orders on the patio pending staff availability. Mayor Staples requested a motion to accept a resignation from Katherine Miller.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM KATHERINE MILLER, PART TIME COOK.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Purchasing/ Personnel: Mayor Staples requests approval for Chester Borntreger, Maintenance Supervisor, and Emily Brodhead, Liquor Manager, to be issued city credit cards for product/equipment purchasing.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE CHESTER BORNTREGER AND EMILY BRODHEAD TO BE ISSUED CITY CREDIT CARDS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO RENEW 2025-2026 HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE LIABILITY COVERAGE WAVER FORM TO NOT WAIVE THE MONETARY LIMITS ON MUNICIPAL TORT LIABILITY ESTABLISH BY THE STATE.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO INCREASE PAT O’CONNOR, AIS INSPECTOR, TO $24 PER HOUR AND ALAN JORGENSEN, AIS INSPECTOR, TO $22 PER HOUR PER RECOMMENDATION OF FLPOA.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Raph discussed with the council purchasing Clerk Minutes AI and the possibility of doing a free trial. The council agreed to the trial. The council discussed purchasing property located on County Road 3, across from the Fire Hall/ Community Center building.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO WRITE A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FROM BURKE AND JULIE MIEKE FOR $7,500 PER ACRE FOR FIVE (5) ACRES WITH THE CITY TO PAY FOR A SURVEY AND CLOSING COSTS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn: **MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO ADJOURN**. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

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 Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk