MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL

June 10th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, June 10, 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 five (5) additions and one (1) deletion to the June Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ADD DISCUSSING BAR STAFF WAGES AND APPROVE ILLINOIS CASUALTY COMPANY RENEWAL UNDER LIQUOR STORE, APPROVE PENSION PAYMENT OF $24,626.00 UNDER FIRE & RESCUE, DISCUSSING CITY STAFF WAGE INCREASE AND APPROVE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES WORK COMP PREMIUM UNDER PURCHASING/PERSONNEL AND REMOVING FIRE AND RESCUE MINUTES UNDER CONSENT AGENDA.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum:

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the amended consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes from May 13th; Treasurer’s Report: Payment of bills in the amount of $146,554.72 including Check No# 52002 to #52088.

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

New Business/Critical Issues: The council reviewed a land classification request from Crow Wing County.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE CLASSIFICATION OF PIN # 22210512 TO “NON-CONSERVATION” AND INTENDED SALE OF TAX FOREITED LAND BY THE CROW WING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the recommendation from the planning commission to approve Ordinance Amendment 2025-2 for the revision and clarification of off-site sign regulations within all land use districts in the City of Fifty Lakes.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2025: OA -10-25 TO ALIGN “SECTION 9.02 SIGNS” WITH THE LAND USE MATRIX REGARDING OFF SITE SIGNAGE.** When polled: All members vote aye. Motion carried.

The council discussed having a grand opening for the splashpad and pickleball court when the project is complete. No further action was taken.

Road Construction and Maintenance: The council discussed replacement of the “Welcome” Sign on CSAH 1 and Buchite Road that was damaged by a vehicle veering off the road. Ms. Raph informed the council that the city was awarded a $2000.00 Boost Fund from Sourcewell to replace the sign. The council was presented with two design options-a design from 2006 and a design from 2020.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM K & M SIGNS OF THE “2006” DESIGN USING SOURCEWELL BOOST FUND OF $2000.00**. When polled: All members vote aye. Motion carried.

Liquor Store: Liquor profit and loss report was reviewed with a gross profit of 48.3% in the month of May. The bar’s net profit for the year to date is -3.2%. Ms. Brodhead requested the council increase the bank fund for the summer by $800.00 for a total of $2,000.00 due to an increase in business. The council discussed discontinuing having lottery services in the bar due to a lack of sales. The council requested more information. No action was taken.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO INCREASE THE CHANGE BANK FUNDS BY $800.00 FOR A TOTAL OF $2,000.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Brodhead requested the council consider wage increases for bar staff. Ms. Brodhead called local bars and municipals to compare wages.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR STAPLES AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO INCREASE ALL MINIMIUM WAGE BARTENDERS TO $12.50 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Brodhead discussed with council the requirements for swiping a credit card for anyone wanting a tab. Ms. Brodhead to call local bars and municipals to inquire on their process for “walk outs”. No action taken.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE RAISE OF $1.50 PER HOUR TO KIM TUCKEK, LEAD BARTENDER**. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE HIRING DALE MATTHIES, TRACI GRONINGA AND JACOB ELSBERRY AS PART TIME BARTENDERS AT $12.50 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE HIRING CARIN ANDERSON AS A COOK AT $17.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO RENEW LIQUOR LIABILITY (DRAM) INSURANCE FROM ILLINOIS CASUALTY AT A COST OF $2,508.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Soderlund reported to the council via a memo presented by Mayor Staples: The Planning Commissions held a regular meeting on May 27th, 2025, at which two (2) public hearings were held; Variance Application 09-25 (APPROVED) and Ordinance Amendment 10-25 (APPROVAL RECOMMENDED). There have been 18 (eighteen) approved land use permits and 2 (two) pending as of the May PCBOA meeting.

Parks: The council discussed raising the rental price for the park pavilion due to the added attraction of the splashpad, pickleball courts, and playground.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. ZEIGLER AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO INCREASE THE PARK PAVILION RENTAL FROM $25.00 FEE TO A $50.00 FEE.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

The council discussed water flowage issues in the splashpad regarding the water pressure. Mayor Staples and Mr. Borntreger in discussion with the splashpad manufacturer.

Fire & Rescue: Mr. Zeigler reported to the council that Jesse Anderson, Fire Chief, is working on grant funding to purchase turnout gear and EMS bags. The council reviewed the pension payment amount.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE ISSUING A PENSION PAYMENT OF $24,626.00 TO THE FIFTY LAKES FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Purchasing/ Personnel: The council discussed the city cleanup day for Fifty Lakes and Emily on September 20th

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MS. BUCHITE TO APPROVE THE CITY OF FIFTY LAKES TO JOIN WITH THE CITY OF EMILY FOR A CLEAN UP DAY ON SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2025.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUM OF $8,513.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO INCREASE DEPUTY CLERK, JESSICA ISTVANOICH, WAGE TO $23.04 PER HOUR**. When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MS. BUCHITE AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO INCREASE CITY CLERK/ TREASURER, ANN RAPH, WAGE TO $38.20 PER HOUR.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. CABRERA TO APPROVE THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES WORK COMP PREMIUM AT A COST OF $8,513.00.** When polled: All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum: Lori Crawford, Gambling Manager for Fifty Lakes Fire Department, discussed with council lowering the rent of the gambling lease agreement from 20% to 15% for a temporary amount of time. Ms. Raph stated a resolution would be needed and suggested the council put this request on the July agenda for further discussion. No action was taken.

Adjourn: **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO ADJOURN**. The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

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Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk