MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE FIFTY LAKES CITY COUNCIL

July 8th, 2025

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Fifty Lakes City Council was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at City Hall at 6:00 pm. The following officers were present: Gary Staples, Mayor; Mark Bradley, Randy Zeigler, (Juan Cabrera, absent; Toni Buchite, absent) 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 July Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. ZEIGLER AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO ADD APPROVAL TO HIRE CIRI EVANS AS A PART TIME BARTENDER UNDER LIQUOR STORE AND APPROVE THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES WORKER’S COMPENSATION INVOICE UNDER PURCHASING AND PERSONNEL TO THE AGENDA.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

Open Forum:

Consent Agenda: Mayor Staples requested consideration of the amended consent agenda. Council reviewed: Council Meeting Minutes from June 10th; Treasurer’s Report: Payment of bills in the amount of $275,614.25 including Check No# 52089 to #52208; Fire & Rescue Minutes from May and June; Resolution 2025-06 Donation from Fire Relief Association.

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

New Business/Critical Issues: Ms. Raph updated the council on Fifty Lakes Day 2025 stating that due to the extreme heat that numbers were down for the bar and fire department. The Fifty Lakes Day Committee held a wrap up meeting at which the following was discussed: Fire Department considering removing hot dogs/ brats sale and concentrating on the pork roast for the day; pickleball tournament; MC for the day to announce when the various activities start; walkers selling raffle tickets; Bar open later; Lakers Lions booth not being next to the Pork Roast; More advertising; DJ during the day; more food vendors that stay to the fireworks; more committee meetings. The council reviewed the renewal of CD #1601 for $49,900.30 at First National Bank and renewal of CD # 9405 for $50,000 at First National Bank.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO RENEW CD #1601 ($49,900.30) AT FIRST NATIONAL BANK FOR SEVEN (7) MONTHS AT AN APR OF 4.10%.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent).

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO MOVED CD #9405 ($50,000) TO FIRST WESTERN BANK FOR TWELEVE (12) MONTHS AT AN APR OF 4.10%.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

Road Construction and Maintenance: Mr. Bradley inquired if part-time maintenance, Rick Crawford, would be obtaining his CDL. Mr. Bradley stated that the city would pay in full for his licensing. Ms. Raph confirmed that Sourcewell would pay for the CDL licensing. The City of Fifty Lakes portion of Northgate Lane has been resurfaced, and the project is complete.

Liquor Store: Liquor profit and loss report was reviewed with a gross profit of 53.0% in the month of June. The bar’s net profit for the year to date is 14.5%. Emily Brodhead, Liquor Store Manager, inquired with Graham Refrigeration about the condensation on the off-sale cooler doors. Graham advised Ms. Brodhead to mount an industrial fan on the east wall blowing along the doors. The council reviewed an overview of the lottery account from July 2024- June 2025 and discussed discontinuation of lottery services.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO DISCONTINUE LOTTERY SERVICES, CLOSE THE LOTTERY ACCOUNT AND MOVE FUNDS TO THE LIQUOR STORE ACCOUNT.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JAKE ELSBERRY AND TRACI GRONINGA, PART-TIME BARTENDERS.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE HIRING SINDEY ANDERSON AND WAYNE KILE AS PART-TIME COOKS AT $17.00 PER HOUR AND CIRI EVANS AS A PART-TIME BARTENDER AT $12.50 PER HOUR.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Soderlund reported to the council via a memo presented by Mayor Staples: The Planning Commissions held a regular meeting on June 24th, 2025, at which two (2) public hearings were held; Conditional Use Permit 11-25 (APPROVED) and Ordinance Amendment 12-25 (APPROVAL RECOMMENDED TO BE ON AUGUST COUNCIL AGENDA). There have been 30 (thirty) approved land use permits YTD.

Parks: Mayor Staples and Mr. Borntreger in discussion concerning the water filtration system of the splashpad to help with the sand, rust and minerals on the water features. Council requested Mr. Borntreger to power wash the water features to cut down on the build up while the filtration system is being researched.

Fire & Rescue: Jesse Anderson, Fire Chief, reported 4 (four) medical and 1 (one) fire for the month of June. Mr. Anderson received a phone call about a resident wanting to donate exercise equipment. Emily Fire Department and Fifty Lakes Fire department to hold a mutual training session on July 9th. Crow Wing County inquired about the maintenance of the emergency sirens, which the council directed Mr. Anderson to contact Bob Stancer for more siren information. Mr. Anderson is working on grants for new equipment. Mr. Anderson suggested installing anchors in the parking lot for the large tents for Fifty Lakes Day or other summer events.

Purchasing/ Personnel: The council reviewed the draft Letter of Understanding regarding the sale of land to Mr. Burke and Julie Miehe.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PURCHASING OF PROPERTY FROM BURKE AND JULIE MIEHE.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

**MOTION MADE BY MR. ZEIGLER AND SECONDED BY MR. BRADLEY TO APPROVE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE AND WORKER’S COMPENSATIONS POLICIES.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent)

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR STAPLES TO APPROVE DONATING $450.00 TO THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent). Ms. Raph informed council of the increase in service wage to $85 per hour for Premium Grant Services (Laurel Prem).

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO APPROVE THE INCREASE IN WAGE TO $85 PER HOUR TO LAUREL PREM OF PREMIUM GRANT SERVICES.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent).

Unfinished Business: The council reviewed the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) Grant agreement for solar installation on the city hall/ municipal bar building.

**MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO ACCEPT THE MPCA GRANT AGREEMENT FOR SOLAR INSTALLATION.** When polled: Mayor Staples; aye, Mr. Bradley, aye; Mr. Zeigler, aye. Motion carried. (Mr. Cabrera, absent; Ms. Buchite, absent).

Open Forum:

Adjourn: **MOTION MADE BY MR. BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY MR. ZEIGLER TO ADJOURN**. The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

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 Jessica Istvanovich, Deputy Clerk