

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**MAY 27, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Wallen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Seth Hansen, Rose Johnson, Paul Knier, Mike Wallen, and Scott Zettervall. Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Police Chief Joel Scharf, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Building Official Lenny Rutledge, and Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey.

**3. PROPOSED AGENDA**

Council Member Johnson motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Knier, unanimous ayes, Agenda adopted.

**4. BUSINESS**

**4A. Small Cell Aesthetic Guidelines Discussion**

Hanna Klimmek discussed the Small Cell Wireless Facility Aesthetic Requirements that were approved by Council in April 2019. The City's intention was to protect the look and location of Small Cell installations within public rights-of-way. Klimmek noted that with evolving technology and the new 5G network, it is anticipated that an increase in small cell facilities will be installed throughout the City in the coming years. Staff is asking for continued discussion on whether Council feels that adopting additional standards will be beneficial for the City. Klimmek reviewed additional design requirements that could be added to our current standards. Klimmek also informed Council that the first small cell application was submitted to the City for review in April. The equipment will be located on school property, out of the public right-of-way. That application will not have to adhere to any design requirements adopted after their submission, only what is existing at time of application. Klimmek reviewed sample design standards adopted by other municipalities and asked for feedback from Council.

Council Member Knier stated that he is in favor of implementing aesthetics standards, but he is more concerned about limiting this technology for the safety of our community, and safety of our families. Knier stressed that there hasn't been one scientific study that shows how 5G will affect the human body, especially in children. This product was fast tracked and is highly suspect. The burden of proof should be on the technology companies. Knier stated his concern with Electro Smog hitting us 24/7 once this all implemented. Knier clarified that he understands that, we as a City are just talking about aesthetics, but stated that there are other alternatives to 5G for faster

downloads. Knier stressed that he would like us to use an abundance of caution on 5G, and would like to make our aesthetic guidelines as stringent as possible, would like to restrict allowing 5G in front of residential structures, and would like the City to consider implementing a moratorium.

Mayor Wallen clarified that we need to focus on aesthetics only, as that is what is under our control. Wallen also stated that he prefers we allow blending in of the equipment instead of attempting to cover it.

Council Member Hansen discussed his concerns with the cost impact the City could face if we try to take on the telecommunications industry to fight implementation of 5G. We could also take a chance on limiting placement in front of residences as some citizens could potentially want 5G service. Hansen stressed that we need to implement additional aesthetic measures so these areas will look nice.

Council Member Johnson stated that our aesthetic rules would be in addition to what the utility companies already require. Layne Otteson discussed the large amount of small cell technology around the U.S. Bank Stadium area noting that it blends in well with the infrastructure. Council Member Johnson stressed that from a legal perspective, the City does not have the authority to stop 5G. The only way to change the policy, is to change the FCC. This legislation was completely pre-empted by the FCC and we should make the aesthetics guidelines as robust as we can with straight and clear guidelines.

Council Member Zettervall discussed that he prefers the fully concealed designs, and possibly matching if at a higher elevation. Zettervall also stated that he feels local government shouldn't be responsible for fighting to restrict 5G and this should be turned over to higher level agencies. Otteson discussed that each location is an investment of approximately \$150,000 so they will build it right, with the right rules in place.

Council directed Staff to move forward with drafting additional small cell aesthetic guidelines into Chapter 10, Section 1022 and Chapter 14 for future Council review.

#### **4B. Lakeside Park Food Truck Discussion**

Corrie Scott discussed the current process for approving permitting food trucks to exclusively operate at Lakeside Park. Originally the minimum bid amount was \$3,000 but was reduced to \$1,000 in 2018 due to lack in interest from food truck vendors. Scott reviewed other options available including 1) changing from a minimum bid amount to a daily profit percentage, 2) lowering the base fee to entice vendors to apply for a permit, and 3) the option to use the regular food truck fee schedule along with an additional charge of \$20 per day and \$20 if they request electric hookups. Staff recommended Option 3 as this option would help cover administrative costs toward this program. This would be done through an application process and could potentially include a stipulation that the food truck vendor live within a certain mile radius to Big Lake. Staff also recommended that for 2020, this program begins in July and runs through August with food trucks having the ability to set up on Fridays and Saturdays and with priority

given to local food trucks. For future years, the program can be updated to become more streamlined and potentially include the months of June through August.

Council member Zettervall discussed his concern that Food Trucks compete with our brick and mortar companies. Enabling food trucks could be at the expense of tax paying businesses and would like to leave our current policy in place. Zettervall also suggested that we consider restrictions on loud generator use at the lake.

Council Member Johnson discussed the same concerns shared by Council Member Zettervall. Our brick and mortar businesses are really struggling with COVID-19 restrictions. There is a lot of activity at the lake and part of the benefits of having this recreational option in our community is that those that come into town for this amenity, provide additional business to our local establishments.

Scott noted that Staff understands there could be benefits to waiting to implement any changes to the program until next year due to COVID-19 concerns, and agreed that it would be beneficial to restrict the use of loud generators at the lake.

Mayor Wallen stated that he likes option 3 as he has witnessed the need for food vendors out at the lake. Suggested we treat this as a trial year and Staff will monitor.

The general consensus of the Council was to implement option C for July and August 2020 and report back to Council on how the program worked.

#### **4C. AIS Inspection Update**

Layne Otteson discussed Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspections that will be taking place at Lakeside Park this summer. The City, the Big Lake Community Lakes Association (BLCLA), and the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District (SSWCD) planned to provide 350 hours of on-site inspection using a combination of Level 1 inspectors and volunteers. This plan would have provided coverage on weekends and holidays during the summer months. The City and the BLCLA have both dedicated 100 volunteer hours each, and the SSWCD has dedicated 150 Level 1 inspectors. The BLCLA has asked the City to provide an additional 400 hours of summer inspection. These additional hours would essentially cover the hours between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., during weekdays. The estimated cost to do this would range from \$6,000 to \$7,600. Otteson noted that availability of personnel to perform this work may be challenging due to DNR limitations is likely not viable. Otteson explained that the DNR is only re-certifying Level 1 inspectors for companies such as WaterGuards through teleconferencing. There are no 2019 volunteer inspectors that are being reapproved at this time and the DNR has not indicated when or if they will provide training for past or new volunteers. There is also a concern that getting volunteer inspectors from the BLCLA may be problematic this year due to health concerns. With COVID-19 causing planning issues, Staff requested that SSWCD use their dedicated 150 inspection hours in Big Lake over the Memorial Day weekend and during the month of June. They have indicated that they prefer to spread their hours over the summer months. This will serve as a buffer through June and allow Staff to better understand the DNR's response and

boat launch usage. Otteson discussed budgeted dollars that are available to use part-time seasonal employees at Lakeside Park to monitor parking and perform the facility survey through June 10<sup>th</sup>. This would be utilized when the SSWCD is not providing AIS inspections. Otteson noted that Staff believes that by June 10<sup>th</sup>, the DNR may make a decision regarding the training of volunteer level inspectors. Otteson reviewed four viable options for addressing AIS inspection needs. Staff recommended Option C which includes utilizing 150 hours of seasonal employees to provide full time coverage at peak times which would be 42 hours per week estimated at a cost of \$6,000 which would also utilize the remaining Michelob Grant dollars. This staff would be wearing high visibility vests and would perform a short facility survey of boat launchers. This information would be valuable in identifying improvements and raising the level of service at the park. Staff recommended Council direct staff to bring back a plan that identifies hiring additional part-time seasonal staff, inspection levels, cost, and funding sources.

Council Members Hansen, Knier, and Zettervall stated they are in favor of Option C, noting that there are no dollars out of the budget.

Council Member Johnson discussed that it is extremely important that we have coverage at the landing. Johnson indicated that Option C would be the minimum coverage she would be in favor of, and wishes the DNR would resume trainings and certifications.

Mayor Wallen stated that he is in favor of option C, noting that we need to continue discussing future AIS needs during budget discussion time.

Council directed Staff to bring back a plan that identifies staffing needs, inspection levels, cost, and funding sources for future Council consideration.

#### **4D. New Ideas Discussion**

Council Member Knier discussed that he has taken feedback from citizens that the audio is not picking up sound very well during workshops and meetings with how the room is set up in response to COVID-19. Gina Wolbeck informed Council that the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission installed a new microphone just before the start of the workshop so the audio recordings should be greatly improved with the new equipment.

#### **5. OTHER**

Hanna Klimmek introduced new Building Official Lenny Rutledge.

#### **6. ADJOURN**

Council Member Hansen motioned to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Zettervall, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck  
City Clerk

061020  
Date Approved By Council