

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

JUNE 10, 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, and Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

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

4. BUSINESS

4A. Commercial Vehicle Parking Code Enforcement Extension Request

Hanna Klimmek reviewed past Council discussions regarding enforcement of the City's longstanding rule prohibiting any commercial vehicle larger than 12,000 pounds from being parked in a residential neighborhood. Enforcement was temporarily suspended while studying the issue. At the December 11, 2019 Workshop, Council decided to offer a grace period for those in violation of the code. Non-compliant properties were sent a notice of upcoming code enforcement action and were given until July 1, 2020 to find a compliant, alternative option to park their commercial vehicles. The City Council directed Staff to begin enforcing the ordinance on July 2, 2020. Recently, Staff was approached by one of the non-compliant properties asking for an extension to the grace period due to the uncertainties of COVID and the inability to secure other options for parking their commercial vehicle.

Council Member Johnson questioned how long of an extension was requested. Mayor Wallen indicated that the requestor asked for an extension to the end of the year. Johnson stated that she would be in favor of a 90 day extension.

Council Member Zettervall stated that he is in favor of extending until the end of July 2020. After further discussion Zettervall indicated that he would be in favor a 90 day extension.

Council Member Knier stated that he has been in contact with the requestor and due to time constraints with their added work duties during COVID, they have been unable to locate an alternate location to park their commercial vehicle. Council Member Knier stated that he is in favor of a 90 day extension.

Mayor Wallen and Council Member Hansen stated that they are in favor of a 90 day extension.

The general consensus of the Council was to allow for an additional 90 day grace period extension for enforcement of non-compliant commercial vehicle parking in residential neighborhoods.

4B. Letter in Support of Options, Inc.

Hanna Klimmek discussed the status of Options, Inc. which was closed due to the Governor's Orders due to COVID-19. Options, Inc. has received zero funding from the Department of Human Services (DHS) since March 18, 2020. Options plays a vital role in the Big Lake Community, noting that they are the 6th largest employer in the City and have been in business for 40 years. The services they provide are critical in the support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live and work in our community. Klimmek noted that Options has a payroll of over \$2.6 million in annual wages, which goes into our local economy. They not only pay living wages above industry standards, but also directly spend over \$160,000 on an annual basis to local vendors and small businesses. The majority of the 65 employees and 258 program participants live in the Big Lake area and in Sherburne County. They count on over 80 business partners; providing critical employment opportunities and income for persons served. Klimmek noted that Options does have a safety plan put together in response to COVID-19 and is ready to open their doors, but they cannot do so without DHS releasing their funding. Their Board will soon have to engage in a very real conversation about closing their doors if they don't see positive movement from the legislature and DHS. Staff recommended the City execute a letter of support to our legislators urging them to consider emergency funding and allow Options, Inc. to resume operations with a safety plan. Mayor Wallen and Council Member Johnson informed Council that the BLEDA signed off on the letter at their meeting on Monday night.

Council Member Johnson stated that there is bi-partisan support to do something to help these types of businesses. Council discussed the exemplary history of Options in our community and whatever the City can do to help will be beneficial.

The general consensus of the Council was to allow Mayor Wallen and Administrator Wilfahrt to sign a letter addressed to Legislators urging them to consider emergency funding to allow Options, Inc. to resume operations with a safety plan.

4C. New Ideas Discussion – None presented.

5. OTHER

Council Member Johnson discussed resident concerns with boating behaviors on the lake this summer due to increased use. There have been increased safety issues with boat users, noting there was a boat accident on Monday night. Johnson stated her concern that the Sheriff's Office has not been seen patrolling the lake this year yet, and that we need to do something to address the speeds and safety issues on our lakes. Chief Scharf discussed his concern with speed issues on the lakes and the extra number of boats due to COVID. Scharf explained that the

Police Department can patrol with their boat, but stressed that the County is the responsible authority for lake patrol. Scharf stated that he will reach out to Sheriff Brott to express the City's concerns and will report back with a plan. Discussion was held that boating rules and no-wake zone rules are posted at the landing. Council Member Hansen suggested we put a lift for the Police boat next to the landing which would provide a law enforcement presence at the landing. Discussion was held that a law enforcement presence will act as a deterrent to these types of concerning behaviors. Council Member Knier suggested that we post the rules and fines on the City's social media platforms.

Joel Scharf informed Council of a planned, peaceful protest expected in the City and that he has been in communication with the coordinators. The City has a full plan in place to address whatever needs are required, and feels patience and negotiation in communicating with the coordinators is vital. Council discussed that counter protesting can be an issue and that we all want the protest to be successful.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Knier motioned to adjourn at 5:21 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Zettervall, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

06/24/2020
Date Approved By Council