

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Paul Knier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Ken Halverson, Sam Hanson, Paul Knier, Kim Noding, and Paul Seefeld. Also present: City Administrator Hanna Klimmek, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Community Development Director Therese Haffner, Police Chief John Kaczmarek, Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey, Streets/Parks/Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Dan Childs, and Big Lake Student Liaison Allie Cross.

4. OPEN FORUM

Mayor Knier opened the Open Forum at 6:01 p.m.

Raeanne Danielowski, 981 Nicollet Avenue – provided input on the Council’s review of committee assignments. Danielowski discussed the Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BLBYR) organization, noting Big Lake is designated through the State as a Yellow Ribbon Community and it is a very important part of the partnership that we have a liaison from the City Council on the committee. Danielowski stressed Big Lake has a lot of veterans and serving military in its community.

Ketti Green, 4722 Blanding Court – discussed the qualifications for Big Lake to remain a Yellow Ribbon Community, which requires that each year the group is re-designated and a member of the City Council needs to be listed on that designation.

No one else came forward. Mayor Knier closed the Open Forum at 6:05 p.m.

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Noding motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Halverson, unanimous ayes, Consent Agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consisted of: 6A. Approve List of Claims, 6B. Approve Council Workshop Minutes of July 12, 2023, 6C. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023, 6D. Approve Temporary Liquor License to the Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association at Lupulin Brewing on August 12, 2023, 6E. Approve Appointment of Part-time Liquor Clerk Michelle Berner, 6F. Approve 213 Crescent Street Conditional Use Permit Resolution No. 2023-53, 6G. Approve Conditional Offer of Employment to Kiana Shafranski for the Police Officer Position, 6H. Approve Police Department Employment Status Changes for Nic Prigge to Patrol Officer and Silas Reek to Investigator, 6I. Approve Purchase of Security Camera System at Lakeside Park, and 6J. Approve Appointment of Planning Technician Tara Kohl.

7. BUSINESS

7A. Donation – CenterPoint Energy Community Safety Grant towards the Big Lake Police Department

John Kaczmarek reviewed the \$2,500 cash donation from CenterPoint Energy through their Community Safety Grant Program which helps communities leverage local funds to support and assist communities with safety projects. The Big Lake Police Department applied for the grant in May of 2023 and will be utilizing the funds received to invest in a Motorola Portable Radio, charging dock, and wired microphone for our Patrol and Reserve Officers.

Council Member Hanson motioned to approve Resolution No. 2023-54 accepting a CenterPoint Energy Community Safety Grant towards the Big Lake Police Department as presented. Seconded by Council Member Seefeld, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7B. Department Reports

Streets/Parks/Fleet Department – Norm Michels provided an update on the Streets/Parks/Fleet Department. Michels discussed efforts of the Fleet Division including service/repairs and finalizing setup on the new service truck. The Streets and Parks Division has been working on weekly park maintenance, noting Lakeside Park has been extremely busy this year. The Public Works crew has been helping to prepare Lakeside Park for the August 5th Graniteman event, working on weekly

park maintenance and mowing, weed control throughout the City, and filling pot holes.

Water/Wastewater Department - Dan Childs provided an update on the Water/Wastewater Department for the months of May and June. Childs discussed the fire hydrant training and facility tour staff attended at Waterous in May, and safety training the public works staff participated in including AWAIR, Right-to-Know, Blood Borne Pathogens, Traffic Control/Work Zone Safety, and Heat Disorders. Childs also reviewed manhole rehabilitation, water pressure complaints that can be created by water softeners and clogged faucet aerators, and thanked the Michels family for granting him a Quilt of Valor recognition.

Mayor Knier asked when the water meter project is expected to start. Childs responded the project will most likely kick-off September 2024.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Hanna Klimmek discussed staff meetings with members of the management team regarding the 2024 budget. The next step is to meet with the Finance Committee, which is scheduled for Monday, July 31st. Following that, staff will be preparing for the two special workshops in August which are dedicated to the 2024 budget; scheduled for 4 pm on August 10th and August 24th. Klimmek also discussed the application submitted to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office for funding to be utilized towards the upcoming Wastewater Treatment Facility expansion project, noting we expect the request to be considered during the 2024 legislative session. If awarded, the award would be a direct grant appropriation to the City. Currently, Senator Mathews and Representative Mekeland are assisting the City in hopefully being included in the bonding bill tour to showcase the need. Klimmek also noted staff continues to learn more about new laws that have been passed.

Mayor Knier asked if a date has been set for the bonding tour yet. Klimmek responded she hasn't been notified of a date yet, but believes the deadline to get a request in is July 31, 2023.

Council Member Halverson asked how cannabis use regulations will work within public spaces. Klimmek responded this topic will be coming back to Council for further discussion and staff will continue to monitor what other communities are implementing.

9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mayor Knier: reviewed the July BLEDA Meeting.

Council Member Hanson: discussed the BLBYR Meeting.

Council Member Noding: discussed the recent BLEDA Meeting. Therese Haffner reviewed building inspections and environmental inspections underway.

10. OTHER

Mayor Knier commented on the beautiful new mural painted on the Third Rail Bar and Grill building, thanking Paul and Lolli Krueger as well as George Quinn for their efforts to bring this project to Big Lake.

11. ADJOURN

Council Member Halverson motioned to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Hanson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Clerk

Date Approved by Council 08.09.23