

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2022**

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: Interim City Administrator Hanna Klimmek, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, City Planner Lucinda Spanier, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Acting Police Chief Sam Olson, Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Dan Childs, Big Lake Fire Chief Seth Hansen, Big Lake Student Liaison Ella Dotzler, Big Lake Student Liaison Allie Cross, and Consultant Sharon Klumpp from BakerTilly.

4. OPEN FORUM

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

Gloria VandeBrake, 271 Shore View Estates and Executive Director from the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry – Discussed that generally people think the Chamber only organizes events and networking opportunities for our members, but a key activity we do is advocacy for our members. For the past 2 years the Chamber has supported a state legislative bill increasing the growler sales that breweries such as Lupulin can sell to its customers. The bill also allows Lupulin to produce and sell 4 and 6-packs and offer its products off-sale. VandeBrake noted that she has contacted our state legislators, the governor and other legislators. This off-sale will provide additional jobs for our community, and will increase Lupulin’s potential for growth & additional income & profits, benefitting our community. Lupulin Brewing Company has been a great business, providing good jobs and helping non-profits with their fundraising efforts. This bill finally passed in the middle of last month, and tonight Lupulin’s request to amend their ordinance and allow them to sell off-sale products is on the Consent Agenda. The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce & Industry

supports this item. VandeBrake also discussed that Big Lake SPUD FEST is celebrating its 50th year and will run from Thursday, June 23 through Sunday, June 26. There are great activities planned, and people can still sign up for walking in the parade, and throw potatoes at the bean bag tournament. Carnival ride passes can be purchased at biglakespudfest.com, noted that more volunteers are needed, and more entries are needed for Sunday's Potato Soup Contest at 1 pm. Bingo Prizes are still needed and can be dropped off at the Chamber office. VandeBrake also provided information on the August 20th Big Lake Block Party.

Jeff Zierdt from Lupulin Brewing discussed that they are the 11th largest brewery in the State of MN. They regularly host community events, and have dedicated substantial time and resources to build this community up, noting that they have given back over \$500,000 in added value to the community. Zierdt reviewed that changes to the antiquated liquor laws have been a long time coming. The support of City leadership is imperative and they are grateful for support the City has given them over the last 8 years. He would like to address a way for Lupulin Brewing to be able to set up their tent, and they look forward to Council's approval and helping to find a way to set the tent back up at Lupulin.

Mayor Knier closed the Open Forum at 6:08 p.m.

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Hanson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Seefeld. The Consent Agenda consisted of: 6A. Approve List of Claims, 6B. Approve Council Workshop Minutes of May 25, 2022, 6C. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2022, 6D. Approve Ordinance No. 2022-08 Amending Section 420.03 to allow a Small Brewer to Sell at Off-Sale, 128 ounces of Malt Liquor, approve Summary Publication Resolution No. 2022-53, and approve an Application for Small Brewer Off Sale of 128 ounces per customer per day to Lupulin Brewing, and 6E. Approve Appointment of Wayne Simoneau to the Part-time Liquor Clerk Position.

Council Member Halverson asked for discussion on item no. 6D. Halverson acknowledged that he was the City official that had brought up pulling the Lupulin Brewing item from the Consent Agenda as he has an issue with Lupulin's non-compliance with the tent and the owner's refusal to deal with City Staff in a professional way. Lupulin was in complete defiance of City Staff and Code by refusing to come into compliance with City Code. Halverson clarified that he is not pulling the

item from consent as they recently removed their tent, and have submitted an application, which will be properly reviewed by Staff. Halverson stressed their off-sale liquor application should not have moved forward without the business being fully compliant with City Code.

Mayor Knier asked for a vote on the motion on the table. Unanimous ayes, Consent Agenda approved.

7. BUSINESS

7A. Legislative Update Presentation

MN Senator Mary Kiffmeyer provided a Legislative update to the City Council. Senator Kiffmeyer expressed that it has been fun to see the growth in Big Lake over the years. Kiffmeyer also discussed that the liquor bill came together this year and received support, and was signed by the Governor. Kiffmeyer reviewed last year's budget year, and discussed that this year's surplus is a surplus from people who paid excess taxes. Kiffmeyer discussed various topics including insurance premiums, ARPA money that was used to pay back the federal government as well as some of the surplus, Front Line Worker Pay, reinstatement of the re-insurance program, funding for Veteran's Homes and a Veteran's Cemetery, and noted that the ag bill also included a large amount of funding for broadband. Kiffmeyer discussed drought relief funding for farmers and noted that the Legislature wasn't able to get the transportation bill done. Kiffmeyer reviewed that government is about the people, by the people, for the people, and informed Council that she isn't running for re-election this year, noting she is ready to retire. Kiffmeyer introduced Senator Andrew Matthews who will be running for the new District 27 seat, and stated her support of him. Kiffmeyer also expressed that it has been a privilege to serve District 15. Senator Andrew Matthews introduced himself, noting that he is looking forward to meeting a lot of new friends. He lives in the City of Princeton with his family, and he grew up in the Mille Lac's County area on a 40-acre farm, where he learned the value of hard work. Matthews indicated that he served as a pastor of a rural church, attended law school, and has worked in some legal fields, which has prepared him for his service in the Senate.

Council Member Noding stated that she is glad to hear of the re-instatement of the re-insurance program.

Mayor Knier and Council Members thanked Senator Kiffmeyer for serving our state and our community.

7B. Police Chief Executive Search Update

Sharon Klumpp from BakerTilly provided a status update on the Police Chief Executive Search.

Council Member Seefeld motioned to set a special Council Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 in the Big Lake City Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North, Big Lake, MN to determine Police Chief applicant finalists. Seconded by Council Member Noding, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7C. Department Reports

Fire Department – Fire Chief Seth Hansen provided statistical information on calls for service for the months of April and May. Hansen reviewed department training that included wildland refreshers with the MNDNR, training on pumps and water supply, and Firefighter Evolution 1. Hansen also recognized Firefighters Noel Krebs, Eric Rosa, and Mark Hedstrom for high response numbers during the first quarter of the year. Hansen also recognized new recruits Shane Roy and Jason White on their graduations from Firefighter Training school. Chief Hansen reviewed the Kids Choice Graduation event and thanked Lupulin Brewing for donating \$870 towards new extrication equipment for the new engine that will arrive in 2023. Hansen also discussed upcoming Spud Fest events noting that the Fire and Police Departments will again kick off the softball tournament with the Guns vs. Hoses softball game, and the Fire Department challenged community members to participate in a water ball fight. Hansen also noted that the new brush rig goes in for alignment so it should be transported to Big Lake soon.

Police Department – Acting Chief Sam Olson updated Council on police statistics, calls for service and significant arrests for the months of April and May. Olson reviewed events the Department participated in, discussed parking enforcement at Lakeside Park, reviewed Law Enforcement Week recognized in May, and thanked Lupulin Brewing for donating \$870 towards the Canine Program. Olson also discussed traffic enforcement efforts of the Police Department, provided an update on the canine fundraiser, noted that the next ATV ride event is scheduled for June 18 at Lakeside Park, and discussed the annual Spud Fest event that will be held June 23 – 26. The Police and Fire Departments will kick-off the softball tournament with their annual Guns vs. Hoses softball game starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim City Administrator Hanna Klimmek reviewed that the State Demographer is required by law to produce annual population and household estimates for each of MN's cities and townships. Estimates always pertain to one-year ago, not the present. As of April 1, 2021, Big Lake's estimated population is 12,165 and the number of households is estimated to be at 4,181. Klimmek also noted that the population estimate for 2020 was at 11,686 with 3,560 households. Klimmek discussed the open house held for Engage Technologies, who has relocated to the Big Lake Industrial Park, and discussed that on Monday, June 13, 2022 the Committee Interview Panel will

be interviewing two candidates for one vacancy on the Big Lake EDA. Klimmek reminded Council that the second meeting in June will be held a day earlier due to the League of MN Cities annual conference. The meeting date will be on Tuesday, June 21.

9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Council Member Halverson: Discussed that a resident contacted him about the need to dredge out the lagoon on Crescent Street.

Council Member Seefeld: Reviewed the June 1 Planning Commission Meeting.

10. OTHER – No other.

11. ADJOURN

Council Member Seefeld motioned to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Hanson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Clerk

Date Approved By Council June 21, 2022