

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 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, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Community Development Director Therese Haffner, Police Captain Sam Olson, 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.

Cheryl Hegarty, 591 Lakeshore Drive – reviewed the poor condition of her driveway that was completed in 2021 with the Lakeshore Drive project. Hegarty presented a letter from the City stating the driveway would be redone, which hasn't been done yet. The driveway is in very poor condition, and questioned when it will get replaced.

No one else came forward. Mayor Knier closed the Open Forum at 6:02 p.m.

**5. PROPOSED AGENDA**

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

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Seefeld motioned to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Hanson, unanimous ayes, Consent Agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consisted of: 6A. Approve List of Claims, 6B. Approve Council Workshop Minutes of September 13, 2023, 6C. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023, 6D. Approve Temporary Liquor License to the Wave at Lupulin Brewing for the Trunk or Treat Event on October 29, 2023, 6E. Approve Municipal Liquor Store 2024 Holiday Hours, 6F. Approve 2024 Ice Rink Lease Agreement with Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, 6G. Approve Resolution No. 2023-65 approving Liquor Premises Expansion for Willy McCoys of Big Lake LLC, 6H. Approve Appointment of Part-time Liquor Clerk/Stocker Michael Berner, 6I. Approve Engineering Services Contract with Short Elliot Hendrickson for Well No. 2 Rehabilitation Project, 6J. Approve Resolution No. 2023-66 approving a Therapeutic Massage License to Heather Jordet to operate at the Jess Say Yes Boutique located at 29 Lake Street South, Suite #400, 6K. Approve Appointment of Randy Brandt to the Streets/Parks Operator II Position, and 6L. Accept Resignation of Kurt Goenner Public Works Fleet Department.

**7. BUSINESS**

**7A. Proclamation – Manufacturer’s Month**

Therese Haffner discussed the upcoming Manufacturer’s Month which is being recognized for the month of October throughout Minnesota.

Mayor Knier read aloud a Proclamation proclaiming October 2023 as Big Lake Manufacturer’s Month.

Council Member Noding motioned to approve a Proclamation proclaiming the month of October 2023 as Big Lake Manufacturer’s Month. 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. The Streets and Parks Division has been working on weekly park maintenance, fall park aerating, street painting, greenway maintenance and storm drain repairs. The Fleet Division has been working on service/repairs, and snow equipment preseason maintenance. Michels thanked the City’s seasonal part-time staff as well as recognized Kurt Goenner for his 34 years of service to the City.

Water/Wastewater Department - Dan Childs provided an update on the Water/Wastewater Department for the months of July and August. Childs reviewed the lawn care workshop held in July, as well as recent staff training including operations of the new hoist truck, emergency action plans, and fire extinguisher use. Childs also reviewed various maintenance projects the department has been working on.

Council Member Halverson asked for an update on when the park irrigation system well discussion will be brought back to Council. Dan Childs responded staff has had meetings with Traut Wells to discuss options available. Childs noted there will be upfront costs to do this type of project, but feels we will save money over time. Halverson explained we are looking into installing smaller wells at our parks to save money, and Childs added the program would also provide more available water for residents as well as for firefighting. The next steps are to budget for the expense, and come up with a game plan.

Mayor Knier asked what the biggest take away was from the lawn care workshop held in July. Childs responded he feels the biggest takeaways were identifying the best time of year to fertilize a lawn, as well as the best time of day to irrigate.

## **8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

City Administrator Hanna Klimmek discussed staff's attendance at the September 19 County Board Meeting to support the Commissioners in their discussion regarding an Ordinance relating to the use of cannabis flower, cannabis products, and hemp-derived consumer products in public places. The County Board approved the Ordinance that prohibits smoking or use of any cannabis as well as low-potency, hemp-derived products which includes edibles and THC infused drinks, in public places and areas of public accommodation county-wide. This Ordinance covers the City of Big Lake and will be enforced in Big Lake. The County excluded St. Cloud and Princeton due to both communities being in multiple counties. Additionally, the Ordinance allows for populations over 25,000 (i.e., City of Elk River) to opt out. Klimmek also reviewed the City Attorney has said the City doesn't need to do anything in addition to what the County has done as the Ordinance has gone through a formal process of approval and covers Big Lake. Klimmek also discussed she, Mayor Knier, and Captain Olson attended today's Xcel Energy Annual Breakfast with other community leaders within Sherburne and Wright Counties. We learned the Monticello Nuclear Plant has been approved to continue their service and the Sherco Site will continue the transition out of coal produced energy as planned.

Mayor Knier discussed he has heard the State of MN is backing up on cannabis and are now acknowledging they need to take baby steps. Klimmek noted she appreciates that the County Commissioners are taking the lead on regulating these types of products.

**9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Mayor Knier: discussed the Xcel Energy breakfast he attended, noting he asked questions regarding concerns regarding the transition away from coal to green (clean) energy, specifically asking if it will get the job done, especially with the push for electric vehicles. They responded they think they are going to get it done using diversified sources, some of which aren't even viable yet. They indicated they are working hard to accomplish this, and they kept saying this is a hard project. They commented they welcome questions and concerns from citizens, and Knier encouraged people in Big Lake to contact Xcel and asked that staff make contact information available from the City's website, and for the local newspaper to publish information as well.

Council Member Halverson: noted the Parks Advisory Committee meeting was postponed until October 3.

Council Member Hanson: discussed the September Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting and the Ribs for the Ribbon fundraiser held on September 23.

Council Member Noding: discussed she attended the Big Lake High School Homecoming Game and was happy to see high attendance at the game.

**10. OTHER** – No other.

**11. ADJOURN**

Council Member Seefeld motioned to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Halverson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck  
Clerk

Date Approved by Council 10.11.23