

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 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: City Administrator Hanna Klimmek, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Police Chief John Kaczmarek, Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey, Streets/Parks/Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Dan Childs, and Student Liaison Allie Cross.

4. OPEN FORUM

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

Gloria VandeBrake, Big Lake Chamber of Commerce – Reviewed the September 25, 2022 Local Candidate Forum and reminded the public of the October 10, 2022 forum that will showcase candidates running for Sherburne County seats, the State Representative seat, and the State Senate seat. VandeBrake indicated that the forum will start at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Mayor Knier closed the Open Forum at 6:02 p.m.

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Seefeld motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Noding, 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 September 14, 2022, 6C. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2022, 6D. Approve Calling for Meetings of the City/Township Joint Planning Board on October 12 and October 26, 2022 for the Mega Storage USA Development Applications, 6E. Approve Resolution No. 2022-67 Appointing Election Judges for the November 8, 2022 General Election, 6F. Approve Liquor Store Part-Time Hourly Pay Plan Adjustment, 6G. Approve Appointment of Planning Commissioners Dustin Wiebold and Tony Velishek, 6H. Accept Resignation of Chief Building Official Lenny Rutledge, 6I. Approve Appointment of Chief Building Official Mick Kaehler, 6J. Approve Resolution No. 2022-68 and 2022-69 Calling 2012A and 2014A General Obligation Bonds, 6K. Approve Spark1Inc Pyrotechnics Display Permit for the 2022 Homecoming Game on October 14, 2022, 6L. Approve Change Order No. 4 for the ST2021-1 Project, 6M. Approve Municipal Liquor Store 2023 Holiday Hours, 6N. Approve 2023 Ice Rink Lease Agreement with Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, and 6O. Approve Resolution No. 2022-70 for the 2021 Street and Utility Improvement Project Driveway Agreements.

7. BUSINESS

7A. Oath of Office – Chief of Police John Kaczmarek

Mayor Knier conducted the Oath of Office Ceremony with newly appointed Chief of Police John Kaczmarek.

Kaczmarek thanked members of the Robbinsdale Police Department, all of which have been alongside him in the most critical moments of his professional career, and thanked his family for their ongoing support. Kaczmarek addressed the Big Lake Police Department stressing that they are a team, and they will accomplish the goals and mission set forth by the Police Department. The Department will serve the citizens of Big Lake with pride, the upmost integrity, and will continue to build public trust, community partnerships and will ensure that Big Lake remains a safe community for all to feel welcome. Kaczmarek expressed that the support during the transition has spoken volumes about the kind of people we have on our Department.

Mayor Knier stated that the City looks forward to a long relationship with Kaczmarek, noting that it's been a long process to get him here and he is 100% confident that it was a great investment of time and money to do that for the citizens of Big Lake. Knier also expressed that he feels Chief Kaczmarek will be a strong asset to the community and to the Department for years to come.

7B. Proclamation – Manufacturer’s Month

Hanna Klimmek discussed the upcoming Manufacturer’s Month which is being recognized for the month of October throughout Minnesota. Klimmek reviewed activities of upcoming tours for Manufacturing Month, noting that Premier Marine will be offering guided tours on October 18, 2022.

Mayor Knier read aloud a Proclamation proclaiming October 2022 as Big Lake Manufacturer’s Month.

Council Member Seefeld motioned to approve a Proclamation proclaiming October 2022 as Big Lake Manufacturer’s Month. Seconded by Council Member Noding, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7C. Receive Bids and Award Contract for the Well No. 1 Improvement Project B

Dan Childs reviewed bids received for the Well No. 1 Improvement Project B which is the second phase of the project. One bid was received which was submitted by Municipal Builders, Inc. of Nowthen, MN in the amount of \$477,000.

Council Member Halverson asked what the anticipated cost was originally. Childs responded that Council had pre-approved the project up to \$500,000 total, noting that we will be significantly over that amount. The Project B portion in itself is \$477,000. Halverson asked what the revised estimate is projected to be. Childs indicated that staff and the consultant expect the total cost will be closer to \$700,000 due to the high cost of products.

Jeff Ledin from SEH, Inc. reviewed that cost overruns have become normal in this economy. Ledin also discussed that we have designed the well with support equipment so that it will become a prototype for all our wells so that the operators can control the flow and measure the pressure. Well No. 1 will be rehabbed, and with the improvements will be a long-lived well. Ledin explained that the preliminary costs were based on speculative estimates and we now have actual costs.

Council Member Hanson motioned to approve Resolution No. 2022-71 receiving bids and awarding the Contract in the amount of \$477,000 for the Well No. 1 Improvement Project B. Seconded by Council Member Halverson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7D. Department Reports

Streets/Parks/Fleet Department – Superintendent Norm Michels provided an update on the Streets/Parks/Fleet Department for the months of July and August 2022. Michels discussed park

maintenance efforts, sidewalk replacement on Lakeshore Drive, and reviewed fall cleanup and winter weather preparations.

Water/Wastewater Department – Superintendent Dan Childs provided an update on the Water/Wastewater Department for the months of July and August 2022. The utilities department provided 72,816,000 gallons of safe drinking water in July and another 60,665,000 gallons in August. The City treated 24,393,000 gallons of wastewater in July and 25,650,000 gallons in August.

Mayor Knier discussed the problems created by flushable wipes. Childs explained that the wipes can cause blockages, which draws much more amperage to pump the water, and the pumps can trip out, noting that these issues could potentially cause basement backups. Knier suggested the City advertise precautions on the use of flushable wipes. Council Members discussed staff time that goes into cleaning these blockages out.

Council Member Hanson asked how often the clarifier is cleaned. Childs explained that we try to do it once a year, but due to staffing shortages, it wasn't done in the previous two years.

Mayor Knier asked when the wastewater treatment plant expansion will start. Childs responded that we are still waiting for design approval from the MPCA, and noted that we will be touring other plants to see what will work best for Big Lake. Childs noted that construction is expected to begin in 2025 at the earliest.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator Hanna Klimmek discussed City representation at the Xcel Energy annual breakfast last week, noting that the MN Public Utilities Commission has recently approved a 3,200+ acre solar farm that extends from Becker to Clear Lake and are hoping to secure another 2,500 acres in the near future, which has raised some concerns from area leaders. Klimmek also discussed that the Big Lake Police Department participated in the annual Youth Apprenticeship Fair at the Big Lake High School last week, noting that the City has participated in the event from the very beginning and will continue to do so in years to come. Klimmek also reviewed the first of two Political Candidate Forums where the audience heard from candidate panelists from the School Board, Big Lake & Orrock Townships, and the Big Lake City Council. The next Forum will begin with a meet and greet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 10th, and the audience will hear from candidate panelists from four Sherburne County District seats, County Auditor/Treasurer, and area State Representative and Senate seats.

9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mayor Knier: Informed the public that there is an open seat on the EDA. Hanna Klimmek identified that letters of interest can be sent in to the City until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 2022.

Council Member Halverson: Reviewed the September Parks Advisory Committee Meeting.

Council Member Hanson: Discussed the recent Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting and provided information on the Ribs for the Ribbon event that was held on September 24, 2022.

Council Member Noding: Reviewed the September Big Lake Community Lakes Association Meeting.

Council Member Seefeld: Reviewed the recent Code Revision Taskforce Meeting.

10. OTHER

Mayor Knier discussed that costs have increased, noting that the 2023 preliminary budget increase is at 4.77%. Knier expressed that he would love to not have increases, but stressed that is not the real world we are living in, noting that as a city we have to have room for contingencies.

11. ADJOURN

Council Member Halverson motioned to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Hanson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Clerk

Date Approved By Council 10.12.22