

## JOINT MEETING MINUTES

### CITY OF BIG LAKE, BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP, and CITY OF MONTICELLO BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

APRIL 16, 2007  
6:00 P.M.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Lori Kampa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Big Lake Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, and Patricia May. Council Member absent: Mayor Donald Orrock.

Town Board Members present: Larry Alfords, Mike Hayes, Bob Hofer, Norm Leslie, and Chairman Jim Sanford.

Monticello Council Members present: Mayor Clint Herbst, Tom Perrault, and Susie Wojchowski. Council Members absent: Wayne Mayer and Brian Stumpf,

Also present: Big Lake City Administrator Scott Johnson, Town Treasurer Ken Warneke, Monticello City Administrator Jeff O'Neill, Big Lake Finance Director Corey Boyer, Big Lake Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, Big Lake City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Town Clerk Laura Hayes, Big Lake Planner Annie Deckert, Big Lake Engineer Brad DeWolf from Bolton and Menk, Township Attorney Peter Teide from Murnane & Brandt, City of Big Lake Attorney Mike Couri from Couri, MacArthur, & Rudde, Sherburne County Commissioner Ewald Petersen, and Sherburne County Public Works Director John Menter.

#### 3. ADOPT PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Heitz motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda with the addition of item 4 – Monticello Presentation. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, Agenda adopted.

**4. BUSINESS** (All items under the Business Section [4A, 4B, & 4C] were discussed as one item under Item 4.)

**4A. Discuss Outside Planner Services**

**4B. Discuss Transportation System Operation Model for Highway 25 Corridor**

**4C. Discuss Notice of Intent to Annex**

Monticello City Administrator Jeff O'Neill reviewed the outline prepared by the City of Monticello. Mr. O'Neill identified their goal as developing a strategy for development between Monticello and Big Lake that supports growth in the region to the benefit of all parties including the City of Big Lake, Big Lake Township, and property owners. Mr. O'Neil explained that it was the hope of the City of Monticello that the formal Notice of Intent would bring all the stakeholders to the table and would provide incentive for the parties to plan together. Mr. O'Neill also indicated that an agreement between parties to participate in joint planning would contribute toward suspension of the Notice of Intent to Annex the area located north of the Mississippi River in Big Lake Township.

Board Members discussed establishing a joint subcommittee consisting of representatives of Big Lake Township, the City of Big Lake, the City of Monticello, Sherburne County, and Wright County. Discussion was also held on the County's draft 20-year Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan created by Big Lake Township and Sherburne County. Board Members indicated that they would discuss the formation of a Joint subcommittee at their next regular meetings if the City of Monticello would agree to rescind their annexation petition. Members discussed the need for control of phasing for future projects in this area. Monticello representatives requested that construction be stopped in this area until a transportation plan is created. Township representatives asked if Monticello is prepared to do the same in their community if they expect the Big Lake Community to restrict development. Big Lake City Attorney Mike Couri explained that all the communities should act together if it is decided to restrict development. Mr. Couri identified two potential goals which include establishing a planning procedure and a definitive plan for managed growth.

Board Members discussed that the transportation issue is a regional problem and that the Boards need to work together for better planning, show a united front, and to establish funding mechanisms to correct the problem. Town Board Members stated their concern with the City of Monticello holding township residents hostage with the threat of unwarranted annexation, and identified that it is difficult to cooperate when the annexation is being forced. The Township has always had a good working relationship with the City of Big Lake officials and understands the necessity to work together. Council Member Heitz asked for clarification from the Monticello City Council Members on if their threat of annexation is based solely on transportation concerns or if there are any other reason for the contested annexation. Mayor Herbst stated that transportation is their number one concern. Council Member Heitz stated that the City of Big Lake would concur to joint

planning if their reason for the contested annexation is for transportation concerns, but that if it is based on annexation of Township land, the City of Big Lake would consider it contentious. Monticello Administrator O'Neill stated that with the potential large population growth in the region, Monticello would like to share in the analysis & impact to accommodate for that growth. Council Member Heitz stated that he is not in favor of the tactics used by the City of Monticello. Big Lake Township Attorney Teide requested that once the joint subcommittee is set-up, the annexation petition be rescinded by the Monticello City Council.

Board Members directed their staff to determine dates that each Board will appoint two members from their board to represent them on the Joint Annexation Subcommittee.

Board Members thanked each other for attending the Joint Meeting.

**8. ADJOURN**

Council Member Heitz motioned to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Seconded by Town Board Member Sanford, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck  
Clerk

04/25/07  
Date Approved by Council