

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Don Orrock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Patricia May, and Don Orrock. Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Sean Rifenberick, Liquor Store Manager Jan Kostrzewski, City Attorney Soren Mattick of Campbell Knutson, and Jared Voge from the City Engineers office of Bolton & Menk, Inc.

4. OPEN FORUM

Mayor Orrock opened the Open Forum at 7:01 p.m. No one came forward. Mayor Orrock closed the Open Forum at 7:02 p.m.

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Kampa motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda with the removal of Item No. 12 – Closed Session. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, consent agenda approved. The Consent Agenda

consists of: 6A) Approve Council Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2008, 6B) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2008, 6C) Approve Special Council Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2008, 6D) Approve Transfer for Wine Tasting Event Security, 6E) Call for a Council Gathering on June 3, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Caring Rivers United Way Community Forum at the Big Lake American Legion, 6F) Accept \$7,000 SCORE Grant, 6G) Approve Transfer from Enterprise Funds for 2007 Street Projects, 6H) Approve Debt Service Transfers, 6I) Authorize Use of Lakeside Park for the Fourth Annual Chad Judge "Fishing for Scholarship" fishing tournament on Saturday, September 6, 2008, 6J) Approve Closing Capital Project Funds and Debt Service Fund, 6K) Approve the Sale of Forfeited Vehicle at Auction, 6L) Approve Abatement of Shade Tree Powersports SAC Assessments, 6K) Approve Marketplace Drive Reimbursement Resolution No. 2008-35, and 6L) Approve Fire Department Donation Resolution No. 2008-36.

7. BUSINESS

7A. Proclamation – May 11th – May 17th as "Police Week"

Mayor Orrock read aloud a Proclamation proclaiming May 11th – 17th as "Police Week".

Council Member Kampa motioned to approve Resolution No. 2008-37 proclaiming the week of May 11th – 17th, 2008 as "Police Week". Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7B. Hockey Rink Discussion

Corey Boyer reviewed discussions held with representatives from the Becker-Big Lake Ice Association (BBLIA) relating to the possibility of the City taking ownership of the property located in the Marketplace Development that could potentially be the future home of an ice arena. Mr. Boyer reviewed the Resolution of Support approved by Council on February 27, 2008 which identifies the City's support for financial participation and ownership of the facility contingent on receiving \$500,000 in state funds towards the project, the hockey association donating \$500,000 in dollars up front towards the projects, and proportionate matching financial participation from another local governmental jurisdiction. Staff is seeking Council discussion on any additional direction to the hockey association, or if the Council simply wants to re-affirm the direction identified in the Resolution of Support. Mr. Boyer also presented Council with a request from the BBLIA seeking Council consideration on establishing a tax abatement program in the Marketplace Development and for Abatement of property taxes for their current property.

Council discussed the shortfall of funds the BBLIA is facing, and their concerns with narrowly focusing on a City contribution when the facility will serve a larger jurisdiction than just the City. Staff reviewed pro's and con's of the City taking ownership of the parcel and

noted that the BBLIA would like the City to take ownership so that they will not have to pay property taxes on the parcel. Mayor Orrock explained that if the City were to take ownership, the cost of the overall project would go up as the City is regulated to specific bidding requirements. Council discussed whether Abatement would be a better option to help the BBLIA with the taxes on the parcel. Mr. Boyer discussed bonding requirements which could impact the future interest rate on City projects.

Brad Butalla from the BBLIA informed Council that the County Board would possibly be interested in bonding for the project. Mr. Butalla also noted that the Ice Association feels that it would be beneficial if the City took ownership of the parcel. Kent Vickerman reviewed the projected costs of the ice arena.

Council Member Heitz motioned to call for a public hearing on May 28, 2008 at 7:00p.m.in the City Council Chambers for an Abatement Hearing on the parcel of land owned by the Becker-Big Lake Ice Association and to consider an Abatement Program for the Big Lake Marketplace Development. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7C. Transfer of Ownership of Parcels to the BLEDA

Corey Boyer reviewed ownership of parcels located in the Eagle Lake Road/Fern Street redevelopment area. Mr. Boyer noted that as the purchase agreement with Big Lake Development, LLC is with the Big Lake Economic Development Authority (BLEDA), all parcels currently owned by the City in this area may need to be quit claim deeded to the BLEDA.

Council Member May motioned to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to execute Quit Claim Deeds for parcel no. 65-019-4110 and 65-019-4100. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

8. LIST OF CLAIMS

Council Member Kampa motioned to approve the List of Claims ranging from Check No.53517 through Check No. 53694. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Soren Mattick discussed the Humbolt Subdivision Plat and the need for BD Wexford to provide a Letter of Understanding relating to a 33 foot parcel along the railroad tracks showing that the Wexford's are undertaking a "Quiet Title Action" to clear up ownership of this parcel. Staff asked Council to authorize the terms of the Letter of Understanding that

will be presented to BD Wexford, LLC for execution.

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve the terms of the Letter of Understanding to be executed by BD Wexford, LLC. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

10. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Council Member Heitz: Discussed comments he has received on the boulevard/sidewalk area along the new Esplanade relating to protection for pedestrians from Highway 10 traffic. Staff informed Council that the Esplanade area along Highway 10 was built to MNDOT standards, and that the original design called for a B-Curb, not the MNDOT required sloped type of curbing that was installed. Council Member Kampa directed staff to contact MNDOT to discuss the possibility of having a “rumble strip” installed in this area to alleviate some of the residents concerns. Council Member Heitz also discussed the Northstar Big Lake Station Groundbreaking event held on May 6th, and the May BLEDA Meeting.

Council Member Kampa: Discussed the Duffy Development tour she attended. Council Member Kampa also asked Council to consider being pro-active in hiring a part-time police officer.

Council Member Kampa motioned to approve hiring a part-time police officer. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Council Member Kampa also asked Council and staff to consider a date for an Employee Appreciation Picnic.

Mayor Orrock: Introduced Deb Steiskal, an Outreach Coordinator from Congresswoman Michelle Bachman’s Office. Ms. Steiskal noted that Congresswoman Bachman’s Office is ready to assist the City with federal funding options.

Mayor Orrock inquired if staff has had any Laundromat prospects contact them to discuss moving into Big Lake. Jim Thares discussed contacts he has had and indicated that a potential site for this type of facility could be at the east end of Lake Shopping Center.

Council Member May: Discussed the May Planning Commission and Parks Advisory Committee Meetings.

11. OTHER

No other.

12. CLOSED SESSION – Attorney/Client Privilege

Item was removed from the Agenda.

13. ADJOURN

Council Member May motioned to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Clerk

Date Approved By Council _____