

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lori Kampa 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, Raeanne Danielowski, Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, and Duane Langsdorf. Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, EDA Assistant/CDA Leslie Chmielewski, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Sean Rifenerick, Liquor Store Manager Jan Kostrzewski, City Attorney Soren Mattick of Campbell Knutson, City Engineer Brad DeWolf and Jared Voge of Bolton & Menk, Inc.

4. OPEN FORUM

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

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda with the addition of item 7E) Exempt Raffle Permit Request for the Sherburne County Swampbucks. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of item 6E for separate consideration. Seconded by Council Member Heitz, unanimous ayes,

consent agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consists of: 6A) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2009, 6B) Approve Interfund Loan Resolution No. 2009-18, 6C) Authorize Settlement and Release Agreement with Paumen Properties, LLC for Release of the Hidden Rivers Development Contract, 6D) Award Quote to Rice Lake Construction Group for Interior Piping Improvements for the Well No. 7 Project, 6F) Approve Resolution No. 2009-19 to Stimulate Development, and 6G) Approve Letter of Support for WNT Proposal.

6E) Approve Waiving of Temporary Sign Permit Fees for Non-Profit Charitable Events
Council Member Danielowski questioned how the City defines charitable events. Jim Thares stated the City does not have a definition of a charitable event but in the past, the organizations listed on the memo have approached the City to waive temporary sign permit fees for advertising their event. Council Member Danielowski asked what role the Monticello Workforce Center has in the City. Mr. Thares responded that the Annual Job Fair is a regional event which draws in residents of Big Lake.

Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve waiving the temporary sign permit fees for non-profit charitable events including the annual fishing tournament, the Business Expo, Spud Fest, and the annual job fair. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7. BUSINESS

7A. Becker/Big Lake Ice Association Resolution

Corey Boyer informed Council that Senator Lisa Fobbe has submitted a Bill to obtain funding for an ice arena in Big Lake. The City has been asked to update their Resolution in support and commitment for ownership of the arena. The Council originally approved this type of resolution in February 2008. Mr. Boyer reviewed the contingencies listed in the Resolution which include the approval of a \$500,000 State Financing Assistance Grant as proposed by Senator Fobbe, a commitment from the Becker - Big Lake Ice Association to donate the site and provide a minimum of \$500,000.00 in funds towards the construction of the project, execution of a management agreement between the City and the Association providing for Association management and responsibility for all operations and maintenance of the facility, and proportionate matching financial participation from one or more public entities including Sherburne County, Big Lake Township, and I.S.D. No. 727 through the use of Tax Abatement.

Council noted that the contingencies stated in the Resolution would not be difficult to meet, and discussed their concern that the City could be legally responsible to construct the ice arena as per the Resolution. Soren Mattick stated resolutions are to be looked at as more of a pledge from the City and are not legally binding contracts or absolute.

Chris Stalpes, representative from the Becker - Big Lake Ice Association, gave a brief presentation of the ice arena project. Council Member Heitz stated he hopes the Association continues to pursue funding and a partnership from Becker as they have an interest in the project. Council Member Heitz questioned the viability of the project if only a portion of the money needed was obtained. Brad Butalla, representative from the Big Lake Ice Association, stated that the \$3 million dollar proposal for the arena only covers the bare minimum for the project and the full amount would be needed. Mr. Stalpes also noted the correct name of the Association is the Becker – Big Lake Ice Association for the proposed Resolution.

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve Resolution No. 2009-20 affirming the City's intent to take ownership of the proposed Big Lake Ice Arena facility, with a correction to the name of the Becker – Big Lake Ice Association on the Resolution. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7B. Northstar Commuter Rail Fare Structure Resolution

Scott Johnson reviewed the revised Resolution of Support for lowering the Northstar Commuter Rail fares for the Big Lake Station site. The Metropolitan Council has proposed another fare increase to \$8.00 per rider based on the Big Lake Station's proximity to each of the other sites. Last year, the Metropolitan Council had set the Big Lake Station fare at \$7.50 per rider and the Council felt it was appropriate at that time to request a reduced fee of \$7.00 per rider. Mr. Johnson stated the Met Council will be holding three public hearing dates in April to receive comments on the proposed fares.

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to approve Resolution No. 2009-21 stating the City of Big Lake supports a revised fare structure for the Big Lake Station Site. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Council Member Heitz noted the April 8th public hearing date is the same night as the Board of Equalization date and voiced his concern that Council Members could not attend that meeting. Council Member Heitz also requested that the Resolution be sent to Representative Kiffemeyer and Senator Fobbe.

Council also discussed the possibility of a Council quorum at the April 14th Metropolitan Council public hearing.

Council Member Heitz motioned to call a Special Gathering of the Big Lake City Council for 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 14, 2009 for the Metropolitan Council Public Hearing meeting on the proposed fares for the Northstar Commuter Train at the Anoka County Government Center (2100 3rd Ave, Anoka, Minnesota). Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7C. Neighborhood Stabilization Grant Program Award

Jim Thares informed the Council that the City of Big Lake has been awarded a grant of \$940,676 from Minnesota Housing for home foreclosure assistance. The grant agreement will come before Council in the next couple of weeks for consideration. The funding is expected to be received by May 1, 2009. In addition to the grant award, additional funding will be received from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, bringing the program funding to \$1.3 million dollars.

Mayor Kampa requested a hand-out be developed for Council Members. Council Member Heitz asked if the funding can be used by a resident who recently purchased a foreclosed home. Mr. Thares clarified that the closing date of the home will have to be after the date the funding has been received.

7D. Resolution to Stimulate Rail Park Development

Jim Thares discussed the Big Lake Rail Park project being proposed by Dynamics Design and Land Company. Staff will be working with the developer to seek funding for the project, and will be putting together a Rail Park informational packet that can be submitted with applications for funding.

Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve Resolution No. 2009-22 supporting the City of Big Lake's participation in joint efforts with local developers and governmental agencies/representatives to support applications to obtain resources available to help pursue the development of the Big Lake Rail Park. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7E. Exempt Raffle Permit Request from the Sherburne County Swamp Bucks

Scott Johnson reviewed an exempt permit application submitted by the Sherburne County Swamp Bucks to conduct a raffle at the Marketplace Banquet Center on March 28, 2009.

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve Resolution No. 2009-23 approving an exempt permit to the Sherburne County Swamp Bucks to conduct a raffle at the Marketplace Banquet Center located at 16722 198th Ave on March 28, 2009. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, motioned carried.

8. LIST OF CLAIMS

8A. Consider List of Claims

Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve the List of Claims Check Payments ranging from Check No. 55596 through Check No. 55716 with the exception of Check #55613 and #55710, and Electronic Payments #704E to #715E. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

8B. Consider Audio Communications Payment in the Amount of \$792.50
Council Member Heitz motioned to approve payment of Check No. 55613 in amount of \$792.50 payable to Audio Communications. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski. Vote passed with a vote of 4 to 0 with 1 abstention with Council Members Heitz, Kampa, Danielowski, and Langsdorf voting aye and Council Member Backlund abstaining. Motion carried.

8B. Consider AutoStop, Inc. Payment in the Amount of \$445.00
Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve payment of Check No. 55710 in the amount of \$445.00 payable to AutoStop, Inc. Seconded by Council Member Heitz. Vote passed with a vote of 4 to 0 with 1 abstention with Council Members Heitz, Kampa, Danielowski, and Backlund voting aye and Council Member Langsdorf abstaining. Motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Scott Johnson reviewed a bid from Data Success for the purchase of laptops per the direction of Council. Council Member Heitz noted his concerns of the higher chance of laptops getting stolen versus desktops. Mr. Johnson stated the laptops would be secured when not in use. He also mentioned the laptops could be utilized by the EDA and Planning Commission, thus further reducing printing costs. It was the consensus of Council Members to move ahead with the purchase of laptops this year. Mr. Johnson stated a formal breakdown of the cost of the laptops will be brought forward at the next Council meeting.

Sean Rifenberick updated Council on four grant opportunities. The funding opportunities could be used for the retention of officers, equipment, and emergency operations. As the grant requirements are not completely clear at this time, staff will be providing additional updates at the March Workshop.

10. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Council Member Backlund: Provided an update on the March Park Board meeting stating bids for a volleyball court for Wrights Crossing was discussed as well as the idea of giving park board applicants a tour of the City's park. Council Member Backlund also informed the public that the City ice rinks are closed for the season.

Council Member Heitz: Provided an update on the Northstar Commuter Train/Station. Council Member Heitz stated the public art display has been approved for the Big Lake Station and noted the committee will be attending the next meeting with the local artist that was chosen. On April 2nd, elected officials and NCDA members are invited to tour the Maintenance Facility from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm. The Northstar coach cars are currently in New York getting the interior components completed. The NCDA committee has chosen

the kick-off date to be the Sunday before the start of the commuter train service in which dignitaries will be able to ride the train. Council Member Heitz stated the Big Lake Marketing Committee is planning to heavily market the Northstar Train this year in promotional pieces and during events.

Council Member Danielowski: Stated the Community ED meeting was cancelled.

Mayor Kampa: Reviewed the Middle School Site Council meeting that she attended, and noted that they hope to increase partnership between the City and school in the future. She noted the Big Lake Business Expo was well attended this year. Mayor Kampa was also able to attend the Becker - Big Lake Ice Association hearings at the Capital and praised their efforts.

11. OTHER

Council Member Danielowski encouraged attendance at the upcoming Town Hall meeting scheduled for March 21 at the Big Lake Library from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. She also noted Habitat for Humanity will be having a sign raising ceremony on March 13th at 180 Monroe Street and that they have scheduled the Kick-off event for March 28th at Saron Lutheran Church from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Council Member Heitz motioned to call a Special Gathering of the Big Lake City Council at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009 for the Habitat for Humanity Sign Raising Event located at 180 Monroe Street, Big Lake. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Council Member Danielowski motioned to call a Special Gathering of the Big Lake City Council from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 28, 2009, for the Habitat for Humanity Kick-off event located a Saron Lutheran Church (311 Lake Street South, Big Lake, MN). Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, motioned carried.

12. ADJOURN

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Clerk

Date Approved By Council _____ 03/25/09