

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2006**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Duane Langsdorf 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: Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Duane Langsdorf, and Patricia May. Council Member absent: Mayor Don Orrock. Also present: Assistant City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, City Attorney Matthew Brokl of Campbell Knutson, City Engineer Brad DeWolf and Jared Voge of Bolton & Menk, Inc.

4. OPEN FORUM

Acting Mayor Langsdorf opened the Open Forum at 7:01 p.m.

Kris Koontz; 18763 Providence Drive – Addressed Council with a sod complaint and informed Council that a City inspector stopped work at her house due to an insufficient amount of black dirt at the site.

Dustin Schultz; Woodside Communities – Presented Council with pictures showing the amount of black dirt and asked that the City consider reimbursing Ms. Koontz for the additional costs that she incurred in the amount of \$2,414.74.

Council directed staff to work with the complaintant to clarify landscaping requires in the development.

Acting Mayor Langsdorf closed the Open Forum at 7:06 p.m.

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Kampa motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Heitz, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of item 6C for separate consideration. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, consent agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consists of: 6A) Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2006, 6B) Approve List of Claims, 6D) Approve Low Quote for Commercial Mower Purchase, 6E) Approve Employee Status Change, 6F) Approve Hiring of Police Department Secretary/Records Clerk, and 6G) Approve Budget Adjustment.

6C) Approve Low Quote for Backhoe Purchase

Council questioned the necessity of purchasing a backhoe. Mike Goebel explained that the item to be purchased will replace the 1985 loader and the backhoe is an attachment to the loader. Mr. Goebel identified that because the loader/backhoe can be purchased through the state bid, it is less expensive than purchasing just the loader.

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve the purchase of the loader/backhoe from St. Joseph Equipment in the amount of \$79,822.75. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7. BUSINESS

7A. River Rider Transit System Discussion

Chad Guessell, Director of the River Rider Transit System, discussed their current routes and identified that the River Rider program is a Joint Powers Agreement established in 2002 between Sherburne and Wright Counties. A majority of their funding comes from State and Federal dollars, with a small portion contributed by Counties for capital expenditure purchases and also through collection of fares. Mr. Guessell also discussed the budget cuts in 2003 which forced the River Rider Board to cut less performing routes from their schedule which included the Big Lake area along with Becker, Zimmerman, and St. Michael/Albertville. Mr. Guessell identified the possible use of contract buses that could service the Big Lake area, but would be more expensive for the user and also would only pick them up in the morning and bring them back in the evening. Mr. Guessell asked that prospective riders contact their Legislators to seek additional funding for the program.

Council questioned surrounding area routes and asked if Big Lake could become part of the Monticello route. Mr. Guessell identified that in the future, he foresees the routes as being

“regional” but that it probably won’t happen until the Northstar Commuter Rail is in service. Mr. Guessell also informed Council that it would be a MNDOT decision to merge the two city’s routes as one. Council also inquired when the program would be re-evaluated. Mr. Guessell identified that he is currently working on next year’s budget.

A resident from the public inquired if any of the communities that are currently serviced pay a subsidy for the River Rider service. Mr. Guessell identified that they do not, as those communities are included in his grant funding.

John Weicht; Keller Lake Commons owner – Informed Council that they have been requesting service further back than 2002 and feels that if the River Rider Program is a County program, Big Lake residents should be offered services to the program. Mr. Weicht discussed that the Big Lake area has a high density population and is continuing to grow and would provide enough riders to justify a route.

Council directed staff to work with representatives from the River Rider Transit System and Keller Lake Commons to conduct a survey to find out what services residents in Big Lake would need and to report the findings back to Council at a future meeting.

7B. Big Lake Chamber of Commerce Signage Request

Karen Barta from the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce discussed their request for signage placement at City Hall identifying the location of their facility.

Council directed staff to obtain price quotes on adding the Chamber of Commerce to the existing signage at City Hall. Council also directed the Chamber of Commerce to obtain price quotes on reader board and traditional types of signage and to survey surrounding Chambers of Commerce on types of signage they are currently using. The Chamber of Commerce will report back to Council at a future meeting.

7C. Highway 10 Crosswalks Discussion

Brad DeWolf discussed various pedestrian crossing signals available for purchase for intersection crossings along Highway 10. Mr. DeWolf identified that the City would be responsible for the purchase of the improved signals which would cost \$2,104 per intersection. Mr. DeWolf also identified that MNDOT would install the lights at no additional charge.

Council discussed the importance of pedestrian safety and identified the need to improve the crossing areas along Highway 10 at the intersections of Highway 10/25 and Highway 10/CR 5.

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve the purchase of two sets of updated pedestrian crossing signage at a total cost not to exceed \$4,208 for improvements to the intersections of Highway 10/25 and Highway 10/CR 5. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7D. Martin Avenue Phase II Plans and Specifications

Brad DeWolf reviewed the plans and specifications for improvements to Martin Avenue from Phyllis Street to Fern Street.

Council discussed types of berms and the necessity to have entrances accessible by delivery trucks.

Council Member Heitz motioned to approve Resolution No. 2006-92 approving Plans and Specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for the Martin Avenue Phase II Improvements. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7E. Karen Lane / Forest Road Stop Sign Request

Brad DeWolf reviewed the request for the installation of stop signs at the intersection of Forest Road and Karen Lane submitted by Rachel Slepica. Mr. DeWolf identified that the site was inspected by his office along with Public Works Director Mike Goebel. They have determined that stop signs at this intersection do not meet MNDOT criteria. Staff is recommending that "Watch for Children" signage be placed along Forest Road to help alert motorists of children in the area. Council also discussed the placement of additional speed limit signage in all developments in the City. Mike Goebel informed Council that sign inspections are conducted annually and that he will review the placement of additional signage during the next inspection.

Council directed staff to place "Watch for Children" signage along Forest Road and to continue to monitor the area.

7F. Project Status Report – City Engineer

Brad DeWolf reviewed the July 18, 2006 Engineers Report and answered questions from Council.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Matt Brokl informed Council that the purchase of the property for the Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion has been finalized. Mr. Brokl also identified that the next step in the process for expansion is for the City to annex the site.

Assistant City Administrator Scott Johnson reminded Council and the public of the upcoming National Night Out events scheduled on August 1, 2006 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Council Member Heitz: Discussed the façade construction process at Lake Plaza Mall. Assistant City Administrator Johnson informed Council that the contractor is still waiting for delivery of the steel products.

Council Member Kampa: Asked for clarification on the correct name of Lake Plaza Mall. Matt Brokl discussed possible names for the mall after construction is complete and will report back to Council. Council Member Kampa also discussed the chain link fence that has been put up at the mall and directed staff to find out ownership and use of the fence. Council Member Kampa discussed the vandalism that has occurred in the Hidden Rivers Development trail area and asked if it would be feasible to put motion lights and signage in this area. Mike Goebel informed Council that the Park Advisory Board has been discussing anti-vandalism methods and will be getting price quotes. Council also suggested using a different style of post on the deck in the Hidden Rivers Development. Council also suggested that vandalism be addressed at National Night Out events. Council Member Kampa also discussed speed limit signage on County Road 73. Brad DeWolf indicated that he will discuss signage with Dick Corbin from Sherburne County.

Council Member Langsdorf: Updated Council on the recent Planning Commission Meeting.

10. OTHER

Acting Mayor Langsdorf closed the regular meeting at 8:32 p.m. to go to Closed Session.

Acting Mayor Langsdorf reopened the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. to discuss the name of the Lake Plaza Mall.

Staff informed Council that the Big Lake Community Guide is ready for publication and the newspaper would like to have the correct name of the Lake Plaza Mall before it is printed. Council discussed various names including Lake Shopping Center, Lake Plaza Mall, and Lake Center. Matt Brokl will review the names to make sure they comply with State regulations and are not already taken by existing malls.

Acting Mayor Langsdorf closed the regular meeting at 8:41 p.m. to go to Closed Session.

11. CLOSED SESSION

11A. Discuss Negotiation of Purchase of Property 65-401-0015

Matt Brokl discussed the possible purchase of property identified as Parcel No. 65-401-0015. No action taken.

11B. Discuss Pending Litigation

Brad DeWolf updated Council on the status of the John Wire pending litigation. No action taken.

Council Member Heitz motioned to close the Closed Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 9:18 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Kampa, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

12. ADJOURN

Council Member May motioned to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Heitz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Clerk

Date Approved By Council _____