

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 20, 2008**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Chuck Heitz, Lori Kampa, Patricia May, and Donald Orrock. Park Advisory Board Members present: Chair Gene Earney, Vice Chair Kristi Uphoff, Denise McDowall Seyko, Brad Schnitzler and Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz.

Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, Building Official Sam Rudd, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Sean Rifenberick, Fire Chief Tony Eisinger, Liquor Store Manager Jan Kostrzewski, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf from Bolton & Menk, Inc.

**3. PROPOSED AGENDA**

Council Member Heitz motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda with the addition of item 4H) Senior Center Discussion and 4I) Ice Arena Discussion. Seconded by Council Member May, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

**4. BUSINESS**

**4A. PRESENTATION – Big Lake Community Lake Association**

Members of the Big Lake Community Lake Association discussed their Organization's efforts to clean-up Big and Mitchell Lakes and a DVD was presented showing areas of concern at both lakes. Lake Association Members identified Lake Vegetation Management as their main priority with shoreline improvements as a secondary area of interest. They also would like Lake Management to become part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Lake Association Members requested that the City fund \$15,000 towards the \$24,000 budgeted cost of treatments for 2008.

Staff discussed efforts that have been taken to improve the quality of the lakes which include erosion control along the shoreline, rodent control, establishing a pollution control policy and weed control at the public beach. Council discussed funding strategies and the \$10,000 the City has earmarked for the City's participation in the treatments.

#### **4B. Big Lake Parks Advisory Board - Regional Park Discussion**

Park Advisory Board Members reviewed the footprint and potential costs of the proposed Athletic Complex. Other items discussed included acreage of the complex and the potential to acquire additional land adjacent to the site.

#### **4C. Lakeside Park Fee Discussion**

Corey Boyer reviewed the revenues generated from the sale of Lakeside Park passes for the last three years and the current costs for each pass. Council discussed adding a \$5.00 surcharge to all vehicle/trailer passes to help fund lake management efforts. Council directed staff to check into the ability and potential costs of accepting credit card transactions at the entrance to Lakeside Park.

#### **4D. Commercial Water Access Charge Discussion**

Corey Boyer discussed previous and current water access charge fees for new commercial facilities. The fee change made for 2008 appears to conflict with Council's goal of promoting commercial development in that fees are a factor for a commercial enterprise to consider as they look for a location for their business. Staff is recommending the fee structure be capped at a maximum of five units for all commercial applications in an attempt to limit the up-front costs of a new commercial facility. Council directed staff to bring back changes to the fee schedule to implement the recommended change to the water access fee.

#### **4E. Habitat for Humanity Discussion**

Jim Thares discussed the Habitat for Humanity project and indicated that staff has been contacted by J. Bruce Regan, Executive Director for the Central MN Habitat for Humanity Organization seeking the City's interest in working with them to build a single family home in Big Lake. Staff is seeking Council feedback on the City's possible participation in this project. Council discussed viable locations for this type of project and expressed an interest in the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Big Lake.

#### **4H. Senior Center Discussion (This item was moved forward on the Agenda)**

Council Member Kampa discussed comments she has received from area seniors requesting that the City consider designating an area and kitchen space at the proposed

new library site specifically for the senior group. The current plans are for the seniors to share a community room space with the library instead of them having their own space. Council requested that Council Member Backlund, as the Senior Liaison Representative, discuss the needs of the seniors with their group and report back to Council.

**4I. Ice Arena Discussion** (This item was moved forward on the Agenda)

Council Member Kampa reviewed the Ice Association fundraiser that was held on February 16, 2008. Senator Betsy Wergin has indicated that she will be preparing a Bonding Bill request for \$500,000 towards the ice arena project. As part of this request, the City would be required to take ownership of the site and would be asked to approve a Resolution of Support and Commitment for Future Ownership of the facility. Council Member Kampa asked that staff include this item on the next Council Agenda for consideration.

**4F. Year End Department Reports**

The following individuals reviewed their department's 2007 year end reports and answered questions of the Council: 1) Scott Johnson – Administration and Personnel; 2) Finance Director Corey Boyer - Finance Department; 3) Public Works Director Mike Goebel - Public Works Department; 4) Liquor Store Manager Jan Kostrzewski- Liquor Store; 5) Fire Chief Tony Eisinger – Fire Department; 6) Police Chief Sean Rifenerick – Police Department; 7) Building Official Sam Rudd - Building Department; and 8) Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares - EDA/Planning Departments.

**4G. City Goals Update**

2008 goals information was provided to the City Council for review. This item will be discussed at the March Council Workshop.

**5. OTHER**

Corey Boyer informed Council that Ehler's and Associates will be in attendance at the next Council Workshop to provide information on Tax Abatement. Council asked that the County, Township, and School District be invited to attend.

**6. ADJOURN**

Council Member Kampa motioned to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Heitz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

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City Clerk

Date Approved By Council \_\_\_\_\_