

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2013**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Raeanne Danielowski called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Nick Christenson, Raeanne Danielowski, Seth Hansen, and Mike Wallen. Also present: City Administrator Todd Bodem, Finance Director Paula Mastey, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Paula Mastey, Senior Planner Katie Larsen, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Joel Scharf, Assistant Fire Chief Paul Nemes, and Assistant City Engineer Jared Voge of Bolton & Menk, Inc.

**4. OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Danielowski opened the Open Forum at 5:01 p.m.

Duane Langsdorf, 421 Highland Avenue – Asked that negative e-mails sent by Council Member Backlund stop. Langsdorf read aloud an email sent by Council Member Backlund regarding maintenance on city vehicles and stated his concern that Council Member Backlund doesn't participate verbally at Council Meetings, but then sends out degrading e-mails the next day. Langsdorf stated that he feels this behavior has cost the City good employees and dollars. Langsdorf clarified his previous statements relating to the public works department and maintenance on city vehicles. Langsdorf also questioned how Council Member Backlund knows how current Council Members are going to vote and if he plans to tell newly elected Council Members how they should vote.

Mayor Danielowski closed the Open Forum at 5:03 p.m.

**5. PROPOSED AGENDA**

Council Member Backlund motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda adding Item No. 7H. Spud Fest Update. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Backlund motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, consent agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consists of: 6A) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2012, 6B) Approve BLEDA Appointment, 6C) Approve Exempt Permit for Raffle Activities at the Sherburne County Pheasants Forever fundraising event scheduled on February 23, 2013, 6D) Approve Exempt Permit for Bingo Activities at the Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church fundraising event scheduled on January 26, 2013, 6E) Approve Use of Lakeside Park for the August 3, 2013 Graniteman Triathlon Event, and 6F) Approve Norland Park Final Plat Extension Request.

**7. BUSINESS**

**7A. DONATIONS – Eddy Family Foundation**

Robert Eddy representing the Eddy Family Foundation presented the Big Lake Police Department with a \$2,000 donation and the Big Lake Fire Department with a \$2,000 donation. Chief Scharf and Chief Miller thanked the Eddy Family Foundation for the generous donation. Council also thanked the Foundation for their continued commitment to the Big Lake Community.

Council Member Wallen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2013-01 accepting a donation to the Big Lake Police Department and the Big Lake Fire Department from the Eddy Family Foundation. Seconded by Council Member Christenson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

**7B. DONATION – Office of Traffic Safety**

Tom Kummrow from the Office of Traffic Safety presented the Big Lake Police Department with a Kustom Electronics Traffic Lidar valued at \$3,800. Kummrow reviewed their office which falls under the State of MN Department of Public Safety and explained that this equipment will allow Big Lake Police Officers to more effectively measure vehicle speed and take proper enforcement action. Joel Scharf thanked the Office of Traffic Safety for their generous donation and reviewed the department's increased traffic enforcement efforts.

Council Member Hansen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2013-02 accepting a donation to the Big Lake Police Department from the Office of Traffic Safety. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

#### **7C. DONATIONS – Elk River Lions Club**

Department Heads reviewed donations provided to the City by the Elk River Lions Club. Three donations were made totaling \$13,500. The Big Lake Fire Department received \$6,500 towards rescue equipment, the Big Lake Police Department received \$5,000 towards the reserve program, equipment and technology, and towards the proposed bike patrol project, and the Big Lake Parks Department received \$2,000 towards the purchase of picnic tables for City parks. Assistant Fire Chief Paul Nemes, Police Chief Joel Scharf, and Public Works Director Mike Goebel thanked the Elk River Lions Club for their generous donation. Council thanked the Lions Club for their donations and commitment to the City.

Council Member Backlund motioned to approve Resolution No. 2013-03 accepting cash donations totaling \$13,500 from the Elk River Lions Club to the City of Big Lake towards the Big Lake Fire, Police, and Parks Departments. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

#### **7D. DONATION – Big Lake American Legion Post 147**

Paul Nemes reviewed the donation made by the Big Lake American Legion Post 147 towards the Big Lake Fire Department. Nemes explained that the \$1,000 donation is to be used towards their Rescue ATV. Nemes thanked the American Legion for the donation and Council stated their appreciation for the donation and commitment to the Big Lake Community.

Council Member Wallen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2013-04 accepting a cash donation from the Big Lake American Legion Post 147 towards the Big Lake Fire Department for a Rescue ATV. Seconded by Council Member Christenson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

#### **7E. Sherburne County Soil and Water Presentation – Urban Forestry Program**

Gina Hugo from Sherburne County Soil and Water (SCSW) discussed their Urban Forestry Program and informed Council that they are seeking participation from all cities in Sherburne County. Hugo explained that the program is to initiate focused efforts to actively assess, manage and plan for urban forest resources in Sherburne County. The first tangible objective of the program will be to address the threat of Emerald Ash Borer and Hugo noted that the SCSW will be hosting a series of working meetings for key city staff providing an opportunity to develop preparedness plans specific to each individual

community. Hugo also noted that the SCSW will be working with various partners to complete a tree inventory for each community. Mike Goebel indicated that the Public Works Department is working in collaboration with the SCSW.

## **7F. 2013 Official City Appointments**

Mayor Danielowski presented the Official City Appointments Resolution. Council Member Wallen stated his concern with biased reporting that the local newspaper shows in government reporting and identified that as the reason why he is in opposition of the Appointments Resolution.

Council Member Hansen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2013-05 adopting the 2013 Official City Appointments as presented. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, vote passed with a vote of 4:1 with Council Members Backlund, Christenson, Danielowski, and Hansen voting aye, and Council Member Wallen voting nay. Motion carried.

## **7G. Department Updates**

### Fire Department

Paul Nemes discussed recent activities of the Fire Department. Nemes reviewed call percentages compared to 2011, and noted that the department will be looking at hiring new fire fighters in 2013. Nemes also provided information on the upcoming Chili Feed Fundraiser scheduled on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Wallen asked how we can trend down in regards to fires in the City. Nemes explained that the call trend is factored by fire alarms that are linked to home alarms which tend to give faulty readings due to cooking, maintenance notices, and CO alarms.

### Police Department

Joel Scharf updated Council on police statistics and calls for service in 2012. Scharf also provided information on crime updates. Scharf noted that the Salvation Army bell ringing fundraiser campaign raised about \$3,800 over the holiday season.

### Community Development Department

Katie Larsen reviewed efforts of the Community Development Department. Larsen also discussed the NSP Program, noted that the Northern Star Apartments developer closed on their land purchase, provided information on the application submitted for the Hwy 10/5 prospect, noted that there is a Rail Park meeting scheduled next week, and reviewed timelines for current commercial projects.

### Public Works Department

Mike Goebel updated Council on recent activities in the Public Works Department. Goebel discussed the opening of the skating rinks and explained that usage of the rinks are in full swing. Goebel noted that cutting and trimming is underway and staff has been working on in-house repairs. Goebel also discussed the \$40,000 SCORE grant that has been approved for operation of Sherburne County compost facilities. Council asked that forestry educational links be added to the City website and to the Cable Channel.

### **7H. Spud Fest Organization Update** (item added to the Agenda)

Patti Borchert from the Big Lake Spud Fest Organization read aloud a media release that will be published in the West Sherburne Tribune relating to fundraising and volunteerism issues their organization is facing. Council directed staff to add this item to an upcoming Council Workshop Agenda for further discussion.

## **8. LIST OF CLAIMS**

### 8A. Consider List of Claims

Council Member Backlund questioned why engineering payments are being made for the Hudson Woods Development. Jared Voge explained the timeline and engineering services that are needed for completion of the Marketplace Development Completion Project and the Hudson Woods Lift Station project.

Council Member Wallen motioned to approve the List of Claims ranging from Check No. 64046 through Check No. 64156 with the exception of Check No. 64046 for separate consideration, and Electronic Payments #1884E to #1907E. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

### 8B. Consider Bob's Towing and Recovery Payment in the Amount of \$236.19

Council Member Backlund motioned to approve payment of Check No. 64046 in the amount of \$236.19 payable to Bob's Towing and Recovery. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, vote passed with a vote of 4 to 0 with 1 abstention with Council Members Backlund, Danielowski, Hansen, and Wallen voting aye and Council Member Christenson abstaining. Motion carried.

## **9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Todd Bodem informed Council that he will be presenting information to the Big Lake Township Board asking for a letter of approval for the River Oaks Park Annexation.

**10. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Council Member Backlund: Provided a BLCLA Meeting update.

Mayor Danielowski: Informed residents that a new business has opened up in Big Lake called Go Susie Go located along Hwy 10 and encouraged citizens to support their local businesses.

**11. OTHER** – No other.

**12. ADJOURN**

Council Member Wallen motioned to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck  
Clerk

Date Approved By Council 01/23/13