

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lori Kampa called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Council Member Wallen announced that he will need to excuse himself from the meeting no later than 6:50 p.m. to attend Ash Wednesday services.

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Raeanne Danielowski, Lori Kampa, Duane Langsdorf, and Mike Wallen. Also present: City Administrator Todd Bodem, Finance Director Paula Mastey, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Senior Planner Katie Larsen, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Investigator Rich Berg, Fire Chief Randy Miller, Building Official Ron Wasmund from Inspectron, Inc., Building Inspector Larry Wasmund from Inspectron, Inc., and City Engineer Brad DeWolf of Bolton & Menk, Inc.

4. OPEN FORUM

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

Geoff Randall from the Big Lake Spud Fest Organization presented the Big Lake Fire Department with a \$200 donation and the Big Lake Police Department with a \$200 donation. Council thanked Spud Fest for their generous donation. Randall also discussed the new Board appointments which include the appointment of Charlene Albright as the new Spud Fest President.

Mayor Kampa clarified that Council does not take action during Open Forum and that the resolution seeking Council acceptance of the Spud Fest donation will be on the next Council Consent Agenda.

Former Police Officer Mike Skoog read aloud a letter from former officer Nathan Bemboom stating his distrust of the Police Chief and reasons why he left employment with the City of Big Lake. Bemboom stated in his letter that Rifenerick has given slanderous employment recommendations to potential employers which have made it impossible for him to gain employment in the police field since leaving Big Lake. Skoog asked that the letter written by Bemboom be given to Council Members.

Myron Morris identified himself as a retired police chief and the husband of current City employee Laurie Morris. Morris read a letter stating his concern with how the police department has been mismanaged, and reminded Council that it is their duty to oversee the department. Morris stated that due to a lack of leadership in the department, changes need to be made and a search for a qualified candidate needs to begin. Morris asked that his letter be given to Council Members.

Current Police Officer Dan Sherburne, along with Police Officers Eric Sonnenberg and Chris Hoard, and Police Secretaries Laurie Morris and Tina Peterson discussed the pain and strife within the department, and Sherburne stated that he feels it is not repairable under the current management. Sherburne read aloud a quote from Abe Lincoln and thanked the Council for putting a genuine effort into listening to staffs concerns.

Big Lake resident Daniel Eck suggested that the City conduct a wholesale review of our entire police force as we have had numerous police staff sue the City. Eck suggested that Council take into consideration how many of the staff could be part of the problems in the department.

No one else came forward. Mayor Kampa closed the Open Forum at 5:12 p.m.

5. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Wallen motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. 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 items 6F and 6G for separate consideration. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, consent agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consists of: 6A) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2012, 6B) Approve Council Workshop Minutes of February 15, 2012, 6C) Set Special Meeting for Police Chief Performance Evaluation on February 29, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 6D) Approve 1-4 Day Temporary Liquor License to the Sherburne History Center on March 30, 2012, 6E) Approve Resolution No. 2012-13 approving the Carousell Works Consumption and Display Permit, 6H) Approve

Project Lifesaver Agreement with Guardian Angels of Elk River, Inc., 6I) Set Special Joint City/Township Planning Board Meeting on March 7, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, and 6J) Approve Resolution No. 2012-14 approving the 2012 Liquor License Renewals.

6F) Approve Internal Posting for Vacant Police Officer Position

Council Member Danielowski motioned to table the posting for the hiring of a new police officer until a future meeting. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

6G) Approve Police Vehicle Purchase

Council Member Danielowski motioned to table the purchase of a new police vehicle until a future meeting. Seconded by Council Member Backlund, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7. BUSINESS

7A. February 15, 2012 Council Workshop Update

Todd Bodem reviewed discussions held at the February 15, 2012 Council Workshop.

7B. Presentation – Sherburne County Attorney Kathleen Heaney Annual Update

Sherburne County Attorney Kathleen Heaney reviewed information relating to prosecution services provided by the Sherburne County Attorney's Office for 2011. Council thanked Ms. Heaney for the services her office provides to the City.

7C. Presentation – Big Lake Community Lake Association Update

Tiffany Determan from Sherburne County Soil and Water Division provided information on lake quality and watershed information on Big Lake and Lake Mitchell. Brad Johnson, President of the Big Lake Community Lake Association (BLCLA), provided information on efforts of the Association and discussed the extraordinarily wet summer we had in 2011 which impacted the shoreline on both lakes. Johnson asked the Council to begin steps to review implementing a "No Wake" Ordinance. Johnson indicated that enforcement of the ordinance would be through the sheriff's office. Council directed staff to work with the BLCLA on determining the possibility of implementing a "No Wake" Ordinance and bringing a draft back to a future Workshop for further discussion.

7D. BLEDA Board Resignation

Todd Bodem informed Council that Dick Backlund has submitted his resignation as the City Council representative on the Big Lake Economic Development Authority effective immediately. Mayor Kampa asked Council Member Backlund what his reasons are for resigning. Council Member Backlund explained that he feels the continued appointment of a non-resident is in violation of the BLEDA By-laws, he feels there is a conflict of interest with the continued appointment of Dave Gast and he feels the BLEDA loans are poorly managed. Mayor Kampa questioned why Backlund would choose to resign at a time when he feels so many red flags indicate that we have issues to address.

Council Member Danielowski motioned to accept Council Member Backlund's resignation from the Big Lake Economic Development Authority. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, vote passed with a vote of 4:0 with Council Members Danielowski, Kampa, Langsdorf, and Wallen voting aye, and Council Member Backlund Abstaining.

Council Member Danielowski motioned to bring the appointment of a Council Representative to the Big Lake Economic Development Authority to the March 21, 2012 Council Workshop for further discussion. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7E. Department Updates

City Engineer Brad DeWolf from Bolton and Menk discussed the Wastewater Treatment Plant construction project, the proposed Big Lake Rail Park along with legislative efforts of Representative Mary Kiffmeyer and staff, the Big Lake Townhomes project, Cherrywood of Big Lake, Northern Star Apartments, the upcoming KleinBank project, and the Lake Shopping Center 4th Addition project.

Building Official Larry Wasmund from Inspectron, Inc. discussed the number of permits issued in January, updated inspection information for commercial projects, and reviewed NSP rehab efforts for two properties.

Finance Director Paula Mastey updated Council on the Finance Department activities. Mastey noted that staff is gearing up for the audit scheduled from March 5th – 9th. Mastey also indicated that both Ehlers and Northland Securities will be providing refunding bond quotes in the near future. Council Member Danielowski discussed the delinquency in EDA loans and indicated that the down turn in the economy has affected these types of loans.

Katie Larsen discussed Community Development projects underway which included redevelopment efforts for the Highway 10/5 intersection, the facility space needs study RFP, and the TOD market analysis being conducted by the NCDA. Council asked staff to coordinate tours of the Cherrywood and Duffy Development projects in the near future.

8. LIST OF CLAIMS

8A. Consider List of Claims

Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve the List of Claims ranging from Check No. 62295 through Check No. 62409 with the exception of Check No. 62367 for separate consideration. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

8B. Consider AutoStop Payment in the Amount of \$929.63

Council Member Backlund motioned to approve payment of Check No. 62367 in the amount of \$929.63 payable to AutoStop, Inc. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, vote passed with a vote of 4 to 0 with 1 abstention with Council Members Backlund, Danielowski, Kampa, and Wallen voting aye and Council Member Langsdorf abstaining. Motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Rich Berg discussed the Project Lifesaver Program and noted that the program is gearing up for a start date in early March. Berg also updated Council on the burglary prevention strategies training that the Big Lake Police Department will be conducting at the Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting next week.

Greg Green reviewed the request submitted by the Big Lake Area Jaycee's seeking permission to change the date and location of the raffle drawing for their cancelled Ice Fishing Tournament. The Jaycee's have received permission from the Spud Fest Organization to hold the raffle drawing at their event on June 24, 2012.

Council Member Wallen motioned to approve Resolution No. 2012-15 authorizing a date and location change for the Big Lake Jaycee's Exempt Raffle Permit No. X02830 to be held on June 24, 2012 at the Big Lake Middle School Grounds. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Mike Goebel provided draft copies of regulations and application forms for the proposed Big Lake Community Gardens project. Staff is proposing a \$25 annual lease fee which would help cover the cost of water and other garden expenses.

Council Member Danielowski motioned to approve a \$25 annual lease fee for the Community Gardens application. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Todd Bodem informed Council that once the audit is complete, staff will start the transition of moving into an in-house utility billing process. Bodem also reminded Council about the upcoming Goal and Vision Session scheduled on Saturday, February 25th.

10. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS and QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Council Member Danielowski: Reviewed the February EDA Meeting and the Community Education Advisory Meeting. Council Member Danielowski also discussed her recent appointment to the MNDOT 7W Commission which she attended her first meeting in February.

11. OTHER – No other.

12. ADJOURN

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adjourn at 5:59 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Clerk

Date Approved By Council 03/14/12