

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

September 19, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Raeanne Danielowski, Lori Kampa, Duane Langsdorf, and Mike Wallen. Also present: City Administrator Todd Bodem, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Senior Planner Katie Larsen, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Joel Scharf, Liquor Store Manager Jan Muehlbauer, and Ass't City Engineer Jared Voge from Bolton and Menk, Inc.

3. PROPOSED AGENDA

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

4. BUSINESS

4A. Municipal Liquor Store Discussion

Gina Wolbeck provided information on the request submitted by Coborn's Grocery Store relating to opening an off-sale liquor store inside their grocery store. Wolbeck informed Council that State Statute does not allow, and the Big Lake City Code prohibits the issuance of off-sale liquor licenses because the City has a municipal liquor store. Wolbeck explained that Coborn's was made aware that they are not allowed to hold an off-sale liquor license and they have requested that the City change their Ordinance to allow for fair competition in the City. Jan Muehlbauer discussed the history of municipal dispensaries and noted that in 2010, Minnesota municipal liquor stores contributed over \$16 million dollars into general fund budgets of 210 Minnesota cities, with the Big Lake store contributing \$250,000 into the 2012 Big Lake General Fund, and an expected contribution of \$260,000 into the 2013 budget. Council viewed a MN Municipal Beverage Association video showing the benefits of municipal dispensaries. Council directed staff to contact Coborn's Grocery Store to inform them of the State Laws that mandate liquor sales in cities that have municipal liquor stores and any change to those laws would have to come at the legislative level.

4B. New River Medical Center Meeting Discussion

Gina Wolbeck discussed the invite the City received relating to a meeting being offered by New River Medical Center on Tuesday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Hospital representatives will be providing information on their current financial status, campus relationships, and their system affiliation process. Staff was informed that this meeting will not be open to the public and that the hospital will only have a minority representation of their board members in attendance along with their leadership team. As this will not be an open meeting, the City Council should have no more than 2 members in attendance as well. Mayor Kampa and Council Member Wallen offered to attend the meeting. Council Member Danielowski reviewed the history of the hospital and its member cities, and provided information on the current conflicts with the Monticello Clinic doctors.

5. OTHER

Todd Bodem discussed the fee reimbursement request submitted by Jean McQuay for a reimbursement of a portion of the fee she paid for a covered porch variance application. Katie Larsen reviewed staff time costs that are incurred by the City for variance applications. Larsen explained that costs can be anywhere from \$800 to \$1,500 depending on the specifics of the application. Larsen also noted that if other communities are charging less for their variance application fees, those cities are subsidizing the true cost of the variance applications. Council directed staff to do a survey of variance fees of comparable communities and to verify if those cities are subsidizing application fees.

Bodem also updated Council on the business visits he has been doing on ride alongs with Chief Scharf. Bodem noted that comments from business owners have been positive and that many of them have commented that the economy seems to be picking up.

Gina Wolbeck discussed possible dates for the 2013 Budget and Levy Hearing. Wolbeck explained that the hearing must be held between November 27th and December 26th and cannot start before 6:00 p.m.

Council directed staff to schedule the Budget and Levy Hearing on Wednesday, November 28th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURN

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Danielowski unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
City Clerk

09/26/12
Date Approved By Council