1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Wallen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Big Lake City Council Members present: Mayor Mike Wallen, Dick Backlund, Rose Johnson, and Paul Knier.

Big Lake Township Board Members present: Bob Hofer, Norm Leslie, and Steve Pfleghaar.

Orrock Township Board Members present: Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas.

Big Lake School Board Members present: Chair Dan Nygaard, Lenette Brown, Mark Hedstrom, and Tonya Reasoner.

Sherburne County Commissioners present: Tim Dolan.

Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, Sherburne County Administrator Steve Taylor, Big Lake School District Superintendent Steve Westerberg, Big Lake Township Treasurer Ken Warneke, and Big Lake Township Deputy Clerk Jayme Swenson.

4. **PROPOSED AGENDA**

Commissioner Dolan motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Knier. Unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.
5. BUSINESS

5A. County Topics

Steve Taylor informed attendees that due to tonight’s Sherburne County Planning Commission Meeting, Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski was unable to attend tonight’s joint meeting. Danielowski expressed her appreciation to all entities in attendance for their continued partnerships to advance our communities and county. Taylor also discussed ongoing construction activity at the County noting that construction is expected to be completed by April 1, discussed the new DocuSign technology that will help improve application processes for County residents, and informed the group that Windstream’s Dark Fiber areas have been purchased by Arvig who will be expanding services in the County. Taylor also reviewed new home permits issued in 2018 which was the same number as in 2017. Taylor stated that the County is growing at a nice, level pace and noted that home values went up 8%. Taylor discussed the proposed $600 Google Mega Data Center that is interested in building on the Xcel owned property in Becker. A Public Utilities Commission filing was done on Friday, and Sherburne County and the City of Becker will be asking the State of MN for assistance with the project. Taylor noted that the Xcel Coal plant will be converting to natural gas, and this new data center facility would be powered by wind power. The expected job creation is 50 to 55 higher paying FTE, and Dan Nygaard, who works for Xcel, expressed that these types of data centers tend to generate other economic activity. Discussion was also held on what types of positions they will be hiring which would mainly consist of engineering and maintenance positions. Tim Dolan discussed a new possible County Development Taskforce that will meet to review streamlining residential and commercial processes.

5B. Big Lake Township Topics

Steve Pfleghaar discussed new home construction in the Township and reviewed the Township Levy noting that the largest expense in the Township budget is road maintenance. Pfleghaar noted that himself and Supervisor Larry Alfords were re-elected to the Town Board and informed the group that a question will be on the March ballot asking residents if they are in favor of moving their Township elections to coincide with General Election dates. Pfleghaar reviewed the annual Recycling Day event held in May, and reviewed recent improvements to the Big Lake Township Park that include a dog park, and Eagle Scout improvements.

5C. Orrock Township Topics

Brenda Kimberly-Maas discussed Orrock Township’s Levy, new home construction statistics noting that development has begun to pick up in the Shores of Eagle Lake Development, reviewed the annual Recycling Day event held in May, reviewed road maintenance expenses, and noted that Supervisors Adams and Hassett retained their
seats in the November election, Paul Ellinger was elected to the third seat, and Gary Goldsmith was elected to the Treasurer position.

5D. School Topics

Superintendent Westerberg discussed facility upgrades at various schools in the District, noting that Long Term Facility Maintenance Funding was allotted to Big Lake and has allowed the District to complete some of these vital improvements. Westerberg also reviewed the school’s marketing strategies, introduced newest Board Member Lenette Brown, noted that the District continues to expand course offerings including the apprenticeship program, the Robotics Team, the STEAM program, and has implemented additional security improvements to each of their buildings.

5E. City of Big Lake Topics

Clay Wilfahrt reviewed housing and commercial growth in the City, the upgraded AA Bond Rating designation the City received, and noted the 24% debt reduction over the past four years. Wilfahrt also reviewed the 2018 Street Rehabilitation Project, planning for a $2M Wastewater Treatment Facility expansion which was 50% funded by state bonding, reviewed partnerships with ECFE, the High School Apprenticeship Program, the Industrial Park partnership with Big Lake Township, Fire Department improvements, and the Eagle Lake Road Traffic Signal Improvement Project that the City partnered on with Sherburne County to address pedestrian safety issues at the intersection of Hiawatha Avenue. Wilfahrt reviewed potential upcoming projects slated for 2019 including the Duffy Development 40 unit apartment building, the WWTF expansion project, and the Minnco Credit Union project. Mayor Wallen stressed his appreciation for the collaboration of all entities, stating the benefits of continuing to meet in this format.

6. OTHER – No other.

7. ADJOURN

Supervisor Leslie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Seconded by School Superintendent Westerberg. Unanimous ayes, motion carried.