1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Seth Hansen, Rose Johnson, Paul Knier, and Mike Wallen. Council Members absent: Dick Backlund. Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Police Chief Joel Scharf, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, and Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Wallen opened the Open Forum at 6:01 p.m.

Karna Lundquist, 231 Crescent Street and President of the Big Lake Community Lake Association (BLCLA) – Presented information on a free public education event being sponsored by the BLCLA and SCSWCD offering information on Starry Stonewort and Zebra Mussels. The education event is scheduled on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Friendly Buffalo. Lundquist also noted that 40% of lakes in Minnesota are not fishable or swimmable and are located in the southern third of our state.

Bruce Pfeffer, 1351 Isanti Street – Stated that he is a long-time resident and tax payer, and would like to continue to have access to Lake Mitchell through the landing. Pfeffer expressed that lakeshore property owners should have access to the Lake Mitchell Boat Launch.

Mayor Wallen closed the Open Forum at 6:05 p.m.
5.  **PROPOSED AGENDA**

Council Member Knier motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Johnson, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

6.  **CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Hansen motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Knier, unanimous ayes, consent agenda approved. The Consent Agenda consists of: 6A. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2019, 6B. Approve Termination of Part-time Liquor Clerk Markus Passer, 6C. Approve Hire of Part-time Liquor Clerks Jesse Cox and Jakob Osowski, 6D. Approve Change Order No. 5 for ST2018-1 for the 2018 Street Rehabilitation Project, and 6E. Approve Change Order No. 3 for ST2018-2 for the CR 5/Hiawatha Avenue Signal Project.

7.  **BUSINESS**

7A.  **Accept Resignation of Council Member Dick Backlund**

Clay Wilfahrt informed Council that Council Member Dick Backlund has submitted his resignation from the City Council effective immediately. Wilfahrt reviewed the process for accepting the resignation and declaring a vacancy on the City Council.

Council Member Johnson motioned to accept the Resignation of City Council Member Dick Backlund effective immediately, and declare a vacancy on the City Council. Seconded by Council Member Knier, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Wilfahrt reviewed options to fill the vacant seat which has less than half the term remaining. Wilfahrt explained that this seat's term expires at the end of 2020 and will be up for election on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Council has the option to fill the current vacancy through a Special Election now, or appoint until the next General Election. If Council chooses to appoint, a decision would have to be made on whether to open it up for interviews, or to out-right choose someone to fill the seat.

Council Member Knier reiterated his feelings from the Council appointment that was done in January stressing that the people of Big Lake should have the opportunity to choose their elected officials. Council Member Knier reviewed the City of Ramsey’s process that is regulated by their City Charter, which requires a Special Election be held for any vacancy over a year from the next Election.

Council Member Hansen stated that he would prefer an interview process, noting that there are plenty of qualified candidates in the City.
Council Member Johnson expressed that each Council Member represents the City with one vote. Johnson stated that she wants the process to be expeditious and as cost effective as possible. Council Member Knier disagreed that special elections are expensive, noting that he highly values that residents be allowed to choose.

Mayor Wallen stated that he is in favor of appointment through an interview process.

Council Member Knier questioned that if the Council isn’t willing to hold a Special Election, why aren’t we just going with the 4th place candidate from the 2018 General Election as that is the process that was followed during the last vacancy. Council Member Hansen clarified that he was in favor of an interview process the last time there was a vacancy and hasn’t changed his stance for this vacancy. Council Member Johnson stressed that the position she filled was created from the 2018 General Election so it made sense to appoint from the pool of candidates at that time. We are now 8 months down the road versus the 6 weeks that we were at back in January. Johnson also noted that we don’t even know if the 4th or 5th place candidates are interested in the position.

Council Member Hansen motioned to advertise to fill the vacant Council Seat that will expire December 31, 2020 and to appoint through an interview process. Seconded by Council Member Johnson, motion passed with a vote of 3:1 with Mayor Wallen, and Council Members Hansen and Johnson voting aye, and Council Member Knier voting nay. Motion carried.

7B. Donations – Big Lake Movie in the Park Series

Corrie Scott reviewed additional donations provided for Movie in the Park events scheduled in 2019. Donated funds will be used towards costs associated with Movie in the Park events, and Scott noted that these events are completely funded through donations. Council thanked the local organizations for their generous donations towards this free community event.

Council Member Knier motioned to Approve Resolution No. 2019-43 accepting cash donations towards the Big Lake Movie in the Park series. Seconded by Council Member Johnson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7C. Donations – Big Lake Farmer’s Market Program

Corrie Scott reviewed additional cash donations received from various organizations and businesses towards the Big Lake Farmer’s Market Program. Council thanked all financial contributors to this project. Council Member Johnson motioned to approve Resolution No. 2019-44 accepting cash donations from various organizations and businesses towards the Big Lake Farmer’s Market Program. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.
7D. Donations – Highway 10 Banner Project

Corrie Scott reviewed sponsorships from local organizations/businesses/individuals to cover costs for the purchase of two Spring/Summer and two Fall/Winter seasonal banners that will hang on City lampposts. Scott noted that some of the donations will also be used to replace damaged or missing brackets on 11 of the 30 lampposts.

Council Member Knier motioned to Approve Resolution No. 2019-35 accepting cash donations towards the Highway 10 Banner Project. Seconded by Council Member Hansen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Council Member Knier asked if there is room to place additional banners if anyone wants to purchase one. Scott explained that there are only 30 City lampposts that have electricity and can be used for banners. Scott reviewed that utility companies have begun to monitor items that are placed on their poles and they are starting to restrict the use of their poles for any signage including banners. Scott noted that if demand becomes greater, we can look at ways to improve and change the program. Knier stated that this type of program helps build community engagement.

7E. Monthly Department Reports

Deb Wegeleben provided a year-to-date financial update on unaudited revenues, expenditures, Capital Improvement Plan Fund, and enterprise funds. Wegeleben also reviewed the City’s outstanding debt.

Council Member Knier asked where our debt level is at right now. Wegeleben estimated the debt level is at $42M.

Greg Zurbey provided a liquor store year-to-date review including financial information, discussed in-store tastings, discussed the weekly sales flyer, and noted that the Big Lake Fire Department sold dance tickets at the store. Zurbey also reviewed low sales figures on Memorial Weekend due to cold spring weather conditions.

Hanna Klimmek provided an update on activities in the Community Development Department. Klimmek reviewed housing/commercial development statistics/projects, and redevelopment projects. Klimmek also noted that there is a vacancy on the BLED A Board and applications will be accepted through June 28th.

8. LIST OF CLAIMS

Council Member Hansen motioned to approve the List of Claims dated 06/07/19 through 06/19/19 and payroll no. 12. Seconded by Council Member Knier, unanimous ayes, motion
carried.

9. **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Clay Wilfahrt discussed the recent Lake Mitchell Boat Launch Taskforce meeting that was held, and noted that discussion is planned to be brought back to the first Workshop in July. Wilfahrt also provided an update on the Highway 25 Coalition noting that efforts are moving forward. The next Coalition meeting is this coming Thursday, and the Coalition will be asked to begin the process to develop a Joint Land Use Plan. Wilfahrt also informed Council that a group from the City will be attending the League of MN Cities Annual Conference starting Wednesday of this week.

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

**Mayor Wallen:** Attended a recent Personnel Committee Meeting.

**Council Member Hansen:** Discussed the June Planning Commission Meeting.

**Council Member Johnson:** Attended a recent Personnel Committee Meeting.

**Council Member Knier:** Reviewed the June Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting. Council Member Knier also noted that he and Council Member Johnson were provided an extensive tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

11. **OTHER** – Council reminded the public of the upcoming Spud Fest event that starts this Thursday and runs through Sunday. Mayor Wallen read aloud a citizen letter recognizing Troy Enabek and Nick Abel from the Public Works Department. Council thanked the entire Public Works staff for their efforts.

12. **ADJOURN**

Council Member Hansen motioned to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Knier, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

---

Gina Wolbeck 07/10/19
Clerk Date Approved By Council