1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Seth Hansen, Paul Knier, Mike Wallen, and Scott Zettervall. Council Member Rose Johnson was absent. Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, City Engineer Layne Otteson, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Joel Scharf, City Planner Michael Healy, and Liquor Store Manager Greg Zurbey.

3. **PROPOSED AGENDA**

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

4. **BUSINESS**

4A. **Data Practice Training for City Officials Presented by League of MN Cities Staff Attorney Jacob Glass**

League of MN Cities Staff Attorney Jacob Glass held training relating to the MN Government Data Practice Act regulated by MS Chapter 13.

4B. **Discuss Opioid Class Action Lawsuit**

Clay Wilfahrt discussed a notice the City received regarding a Class Action Lawsuit against manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of prescription opiate drugs. The Class is seeking compensation for money spent addressing the opioid crisis. Wilfahrt explained that the Big Lake Police Department has responded to numerous calls pertaining to opioid overdoses, and has supplied medication that can reverse an overdose. In a Class Action suit, all of the impacted parties would collectively come to a settlement agreement with the defendants. 49 of the larger communities represented in the Class negotiate on behalf of the Class. If money is awarded to the Class, the City would receive a part of the settlement. Wilfahrt noted that the City is automatically included in the Class, but has the option to opt out by November 22, 2019. By staying in the Class, the City would give up its right to any further legal action against the companies in question. Staff has been in discussion with the City Attorney and he has indicated that the prevailing wisdom in the municipal legal community is to remain part of the Class as a city of Big Lake’s size likely would not have enough expenses to justify taking this issue to court on its own. Assuming the total settlement could be $1billion, the City of Big Lake’s portion is estimated to receive $2,882. Wilfahrt noted that because the City has incurred expenses as a
result of the opioid crisis, and the City is likely not in a position to independently sue these companies, Staff supports taking no action at this time and remaining part of the Class Action Lawsuit.

The consensus of the Council was to remain part of the Opioid Epidemic Class Action Lawsuit.

**4C. Update on the McDowall Park Trail Edge Work Project Improvements**

Layne Otteson reviewed the status of the McDowall Park Trail edge work improvements recently completed and costs associated with the improvements.

**4D. New Ideas Discussion**

Council Member Zettervall discussed comments he has received on broadband issues in Big Lake and the possibility of the City encouraging potential broadband providers to consider servicing Big Lake. Hanna Klimmek reviewed the City’s efforts in improving broadband services noting the Border to Border Broadband grant the City received and recent improvements to service at the Big Lake Industrial Park East, in the commercial district on the north side of Highway 10, and most recently along CR 43 south of the railroad tracks. Clay Wilfahrt also reviewed that the City encourages the placement of conduit as part of our future streets projects. Zettervall asked if it is the City’s role to petition service providers to improve or locate their infrastructure in the area. Klimmek noted that Staff continues to establish relationships with potential providers and in coordination with Sherburne County in our broadband efforts.

Mayor Wallen asked that starting next year, Department Heads be more involved in the presentation of their budgets, and that all Council budget discussions be designated to specific Budget Workshops. Wilfahrt noted that he will discuss future budget strategies with Department Heads for their feedback. Deb Wegeleben discussed the benefits of more Staff and Council involvement in the CIP process.

5. **OTHER** – No other.

6. **ADJOURN**

Council Member Hansen motioned to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Knier unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck 11/13/19
City Clerk

Date Approved By Council