

**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING**

The Council called a special public hearing meeting on January 7 at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of taking public comments as it pertains to the potential closure of the Silver Bay Municipal Airport

6:00 P.M.

Monday, January 7, 2019

Present: Richard DeRosier
Dustin Goutermont
Shane Hoff
Carlene Perfetto

Absent: Mayor Scott Johnson

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Teri Cadeau – Lake County News Chronicle
Cassandra Isackson – MnDOT Aeronautics
Duane Hill - MnDOT
Andy Peek – FAA Dakota-Minnesota
Mike Beard – Bollig Engineering
Curt Anderson
Debra Anderson
Tom Gmach
Judy Gmach
Allen Anderson
Tim Anderson

Karen Nelson
Jeremiah Mitchell – Pilot
Tim Norman – Pilot
Robert Mordini – Pilot
Terry Olson – Pilot
Karly Nelson
Megan Timm
Dan Timm
Matt Nelson - Pilot
Andy Samberg – RS&H
Chuck Lewer - Pilot

Acting Mayor DeRosier called the public hearing meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Silver Bay Airport Closure – Cassandra Isackson from MnDOT Aeronautics, gave a brief summary of the Silver Bay Airport Closure Evaluation Report that was developed by her office and was available at the hearing. All documents summarized by Cassandra Isackson are available on the MnDOT website at the following address <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/>. Council Members confirmed with Cassandra Isackson and Andy Peek of the FAA, that if the City received grant funding to keep the airport open, the City would have to enter into the same 20-year grant assurances as in the past, to which they concurred.

City Council Members discussed the current situation of the airport, including financial needs, public interest, location, and classification.

Acting Mayor DeRosier called for public comments on multiple occasions regarding the potential closing of the Silver Bay Municipal Airport.

Matt Nelson – Spoke of the positive economic impact that having an open and operational airport would have on the City of Silver Bay, and feels as though there should be a long-range plan to the airport closure and not a quick plan. In addition, commented that if the City

airport closes, the closest airport if an emergency landing of aircraft is needed to transport a patient out of the Silver Bay area is either Grand Marais or Two Harbors.

Allen Anderson – Questioned the City responsibility for the upkeep of the fence neighboring his property, and that County Rd 3 is in worse condition than the airport runway.

Curt Anderson – Feels as though the land appraisal is too high for what land generally sells for within our area, and questioned how many of the hangars were rented out.

Tim Norman – Spoke of the Grand Marais airport and the increase in traffic due to increase in length and width of the runway, to the point that during the summer months there was a shortage of vehicle and aircraft parking space and that the airport is 9 miles out of Grand Marais. In addition, he feels that Silver Bay Airport traffic will increase if a nice airport is created, and that the Silver Bay area is a destination area with many state parks in close proximity. Further discussed the lack of hangar space at other airports indicating an increase in demand, and asked if the City of Silver Bay has an Airport Commission. City Administrator clarified there was an Airport Commission, but the seats on the Commission were not being filled and the Airport Commission was combined with the Public Works Commission where the city tries to fill with one person having interest in the airport. It was noted that there is a current opening on the Public Works Commission.

Mike Beard – Bollig Engineering – Shared information on other small communities that Bollig Engineering has helped when they have decided to keep their airports open, and spoke of the airport being an asset to communities. Of the 7 airports he is working with, all except the Willmar airport was outside city limits, but the City of Willmar decided that having the airport within the city limits was not a good plan and the airport was moved 6 miles outside of town.

Dan Timm – Reports that pedestrians and small motorized vehicles such as ATVs have been using the airport area and questions what the legalities of such activities are. City Administrator reports that such activities cannot be taking place on the airport and directed to contact local authorities when incidents are happening. In addition, he commented on the location of the airport being appropriately located outside of the city limits.

Chuck Lewer – Questioned Councilor Perfetto's concern that the airport location is not within the city limits. He commented that the location of the Silver Bay airport is consistent with most other airports he has experience with by not being in city limits due to noise and space needs. He also questioned if the cost to close the airport is more expensive than the cost to keep the airport open.

Jerry Mitchell – Reported that at the time of closing, 9 of the 11 hangers were being rented out for aircraft.

City Council Members discussed their plans to meet with City's Legislators in February to see what they can do to help with the Silver Bay Airport.

Andy Peek commented that the FAA will continue to be available for conversation with the City. Cassandra Isackson commented that MnDOT will also be available for conversation with the City.


Acting Mayor DeRosier asked if there were any further comments.

There was no action taken by Council.

Motion by Perfetto, second Goutermont to adjourn the Council Special Meeting – Public Hearing on the Silver Bay Airport meeting at 7:01 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Amy Nelson



Acting Mayor, Richard DeRosier



Lana Fralich, City Administrator