

## CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

December 5, 2022

Present: Acting Mayor Richard DeRosier  
 Mayor Wade LeBlanc via ZOOM  
 Shane Hoff  
 Ben Bautch

Excused: Dustin Goutermont

Lana Fralich, City Administrator	
Tim Costley, City Attorney	
Greg Swartwoudt, Lake County Assessor	
Ronni Radle, Lake County Chief Deputy Auditor Treasurer	
Wendy & Barney Kimball	
Donnie Thompson	Kristi Thompson
Tom Fredrickson	Martha Chateleine
Erik Ollila	Bruce & Ericka Blanchard
Connie Strawhacker	Gene LaFond
Phil Huston	Jim FitzGerald
Tait McMorrow	Pat Heinzen

Acting Mayor DeRosier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Agenda** – Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to approve the Agenda as presented.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**2023 Truth In Taxation Public Hearing** – The Acting Mayor DeRosier addressed the public that property valuations and allocation of taxes are completed by the County and that this meeting is related to the proposed budget and levy for 2023. Greg Swartwoudt and Ronnie Radle from Lake County were available in the Mayor's office to speak with residents regarding property valuations and allocation of taxes.

City Administrator provided a summary of the proposed 2023 Budget and Levy and noted that there was no levy increase, remaining at the same amount as 2022 of \$1,648,110.

Martha Chateleine questioned increases on the summary budget information included with proposed property tax forms and if streets within the city were going to be fixed. There was discussion on the lack of grant funding available for streets, that the city is working on how to finance streets, and that properties will have to be assessed.

Connie Strawhacker questioned if any progress was being made with the results of the community survey. EDA and Planning & Zoning committees are making plans and decisions based on survey results. She also feels that Silver Bay is not growing, property taxes are increasing and questioned why would residents want to stay.

Donny Thompson expressed his concerns regarding the golf course housing project and extension of water line, and suggested requiring an association type rule for homeowners; concern for added noise along Penn Avenue with the new housing development proposed; lowering the levy by increasing fees for programs and charge non-city residents hire to participate in programs as they don't pay taxes to maintain facilities; suggested to lower services to make it more affordable; feels there is no incentive for people to move to the city; how does state funding change for homestead vs. non-homestead properties; and questioned city snowplowing of church and school. City noted plowing was in exchange for use of properties for parking during events.

Erik Ollila stressed his concern regarding the rise in property valuation and taxes each year and what his options he has to contest these changes. There was discussion on going to the County Board, obtaining an appraisal to challenge valuation, and/or go to tax court.

Bruce Blanchard stated he is a new resident and asked for clarification on the Multi-Modal Trailhead project, impact on property valuation when neighbors have junk and blight conditions, and suggested charging parking fees for Black Beach and the Multi-Modal Trailhead areas.

City Administrator provided information on Homeowner Homestead Credit refund that is available to help with rising property taxes. Information regarding both refunds is located on property tax statements.

Gene LaFond and Phil Huston thanked the Council for their work.

Council thanked the residents for attending and for their feedback.

Connie Strawhacker thanked Council for listening to them.

All residents attending Truth in Taxation left meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**Consent Agenda** – Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to approve the meeting minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup> Special Canvassing Board November 21, 2022 Regular Meeting and July 2022 Treasurer's Report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Petitions, Requests, and Communications –**

**Day at the Capitol-** Capital Days will be held February 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, who may be able to attend, priority relating to extending unemployment for Northshore Mining employees. Consensus to table until next Council meeting to determine who can attend on behalf of the city.

**City Administrator –**

**2023 Proposed Budget and Levy-** Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to set special Budget Workshop meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to review budget before finalizing. MOTION CARRIED.

**Eli Yachts Contract Amendment-** Discussion on Eli Yachts request for an amendment to the existing contract relating to thier insurance carrier requiring Eli Yachts be added as additional insured to city's insurance policy. City attorney will review amendment.

**LMC Liability Coverage Waiver Form 2023-** Council reviewed the annual LMC liability coverage waiver. Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to not waive liability limit. MOTION CARRIED.

**Liquor Store ServSafe Training-Carrie Ernest-** Motion by Bautch, second Hoff for Carrie Ernest to attend the required ServSafe training held in Duluth, MN at a cost of \$200 with no hotel or mileage charges. MOTION CARRIED.

**Liquor Store Closing-January 1<sup>st</sup>-** Liquor store manager is requesting closing the Municipal Liquor store on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> so all staff can attend a holiday gathering for team building. Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to approve closing on January 1<sup>st</sup> for team building unless event is cancelled and Liquor store will be open to public. MOTION CARRIED.

**Advertisement and RFP for Custodial Services 2023-** Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to begin advertising to seek bids for custodial services for 2023 along with RFP after review by city attorney and department staff. MOTION CARRIED.

**Fire Department 2023 Officers-** The fire department has voted and recommended the following: Fire Chief- Mike Rowlee, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant- Faron Meeks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant- Eric Berquist, Captain-Bradley Rowlee for 2023 Fire Department Officers. Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to accept recommendation and appoint 2023 Fire Department Officers with the same stipend at 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

**Set Closed Meeting for Labor Negotiations-** Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to set a special closed meeting for Labor Negotiations on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. prior to regular City Council meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

**City Attorney –**

**Contract Renewal 2023-** Council reviewed the 2023 renewal contract with City Attorney with no changes. Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to renew. MOTION CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS –** None

**NEW BUSINESS –** None

**Claims** – Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to approve payment of \$90,230.08 in unpaid claims and \$157,381.41 in paid claims. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor LeBlanc – Absent  
Member Bautch – Aye  
Member Hoff – Aye

Member Goutermont – Absent  
Member DeRosier – Aye

Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson

Attest:

  
Richard DeRosier, Acting Mayor

  
Lana Fralich, City Administrator