

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

Monday, March 18, 2024

Present: Mayor Wade LeBlanc
Richard DeRosier
Dustin Goutermont
Shane Hoff
Ben Bautch

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Tim Costley, City Attorney
Joe Rhein, City Engineer Bolton & Menk – via ZOOM
Kitty Mayo, Lake County Press – via ZOOM
Rick Evans, Northshore Journal
David Moore
Julie Jensen
Marcia Oates
Carolyn Hudyma

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

Agenda – Motion by Goutermont, second DeRosier to approve the Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consent Agenda – Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to approve the meeting minutes from the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Petitions, Requests, and Communications –

Public Comments- None at this time.

DNR Record of Decision on EAW for Mile Post 7 West Ridge Railroad Relocation, Dam Extensions, and Stream Mitigation Project- Council reviewed the DNR's decision that an EIS is not required because the project does not have the potential for significant environmental effects and allowing the project to move forward with permitting and approvals. Hoff commented on how hard the permits are to obtain and this decision is good for Northshore Mining to expand within the permits and keep employees working.

Congressional Direct Spending \$1,750,000 Awarded for Water Treatment Facility- The City has been notified by Congressman Stauber, Senator Smith, and Senator Klobuchar's offices that the application submitted for funding to support the Water Treatment Facility Upgrade and Booster Station project has been awarded \$1,750,000.

City Administrator –

Resolution 2024-#14 Bolton & Menk Professional Services Proposal for Wastewater Treatment Facility SCADA System- Council Member Hoff met with Mike Miller and provided him more information regarding the proposal from Bolton & Menk Professional Services for Wastewater

Treatment Facility SCADA System that was tabled at the last meeting. Hoff provided clarification that no instrumentation needs to be replaced, only controls and that Barr Engineering will be involved. Motion by Bautch, second DeRosier to adopt Resolution 2024-#14 Bolton & Menk Professional Services Proposal for the upgrade of the SCADA and computer system at the Wastewater Treatment Facility at a cost of \$56,050, which would provide the professional services to develop plans and specifications necessary to obtain proposals from qualified contractors. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Member Goutermont – Aye
Member DeRosier – Aye

RESOLUTION 2024 – 14 WAS APPROVED: 5 aye, 0 nay, 0 excused

Street Department SterilKoni Lift and MN Rural Water Loan Financing- Council reviewed the Steril-Koni proposal through Sourcewell for the new lift system for the street department, the cost from Silver Creek Electric to complete the needed electrical upgrade, and the application for financing through the MN Rural Water Association. The project cost is \$216,728.63, which is lower than the budgeted amount of \$275,000. The project qualifies for a loan, as originally planned, which can be obtained through the MN Rural Water Association. The expectations on the loan would cover the cost of the new equipment, the \$5,550 micro-loan origination fee to prepare proper GO tax document, and the potential first loan payment. The annual payment will be approximately \$30,000 per year with approximate interest rate of 4.625%. The loan can be paid off any time after five years. The final equipment loan documents, backed by general obligation, will be prepared for review and final approval at the April 1st City Council meeting. Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to move forward with Steril-Koni proposal through Sourcewell and loan application through MN Rural Water Association. MOTION CARRIED.

Set Tax Abatement Hearing for Housing Incentive Grant Program- Two parcels of property participated in the new construction Housing Incentive Grant Program in 2023. There will be a joint public hearing between the City, School, and County at 7:00 p.m. on April 8th located at the William Kelley High School. Motion by DeRosier, second Goutermont to set joint tax abatement public hearing with School and County on April 8th at 7:00 p.m. at William Kelley High School. MOTION CARRIED.

Senior Workshop- The Parks & Recreation Board is recommending relocating the Senior Workshop to either the high school or the Mary Mac Building after discussing the costs to renovate the existing facility, number of users, the benefit of the Seniors working directly with the youth, safety, potential to move the building, and timing of decision. Mayor LeBlanc and Parks & Rec Director Bryan Carpenter met with the Principal and Industrial Arts teacher at the school and Carpenter spoke with most of the current users, who were receptive to the idea but final details still need to be worked out. City Engineer Joe Rhein stated the engineers need a decision soon to finish the grading plan and if a decision is to move the building additional environmental resources would be required which would potentially delay the construction timeline and add some engineering costs. Motion by Hoff, second Goutermont to accept recommendation by Parks & Rec Board to move the Senior Workshop. MOTION CARRIED.

MPCA Access Agreement- Council reviewed an Access Agreement request from the MN Pollution Control agency to cross city property to do an investigation and potential remedial action along the shoreline and possibly the city's water treatment facility property. In the past, the city had participated

in the MPCA Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program and a recent sampling identified the presence of lead in soil near the city property and the MPCA is doing further review to determine if any remedial actions are needed. There is no cost to the city and the city will receive a completed report. The Public Utilities Superintendent and City Attorney have no concerns regarding allowing access to property. Motion by Bautch, second DeRosier to allow MPCA access for sampling. MOTION CARRIED.

City Attorney – Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS – None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – None at this time.

Claims – Motion by Hoff, second DeRosier to approve payment of \$251,316.87 in paid claims and \$38,376.38 in unpaid claims with the addition of \$90.31 for candy for Urho's parade in Finland, MN that Mayor LeBlanc charged. MOTION CARRIED with Mayor LeBlanc abstaining.

Mayor LeBlanc – Abstain
Member Bautch – Aye
Member Hoff – Aye

Member Goutermont – Aye
Member DeRosier – Aye

Motion by DeRosier, second Bautch to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson

Attest:



Wade LeBlanc, Mayor



Lana Fralich, City Administrator