

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

Monday, April 7, 2025

Present: Mayor Wade LeBlanc
Richard DeRosier
James FitzGerald

Excused: Ben Bautch
Shane Hoff

Josh Stier, City Engineer Bolton & Menk
Hannah Patenaude, Bolton & Menk via ZOOM, left at 7:30 p.m.
Josef Welch, Bergan KDV via ZOOM, left at 7:28 p.m.
Kitty Mayo, Lake County Press via ZOOM
June Talus
Nathan Stadler, Lake Co. Sheriff
Ray Parker
Jill Beim
John Anderson, Sawtooth 16, LLC

Donny Thompson
Michelle Stadler
Andy Beim
Marcia Oates
Erik Anderson

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

Agenda – Motion by DeRosier, second FitzGerald to approve agenda with addition of North Shore Management Board Alternate to New Business. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consent Agenda –

March 17, 2025 Regular Hearing Minutes

Treasurer's Report- Amended December 2024

License Agreement-Lake County Recycling Day- Lake County is requesting use of the airport property May 2nd to May 16th for Lake County Recycling event. If road restrictions are in place, Lake County is requesting an additional week to remove property collected once restrictions are lifted.

Safety Committee Appointees- Jeff Hoffman (Administration and Safety Coordinator), Corey Cook (Streets), Cole Ernest (Police), Julia Kloehn (Library), Jesse Siskar (Water/Sewer), Kat Bullock (Liquor), and Steve Graden (Parks & Rec).

Motion by DeRosier, second FitzGerald to approve the consent agenda items. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Petitions, Requests, and Communications –

Public Comments- None at this time.

Ray Parker-Dog Leash Enforcement- Ray Parker expressed concern regarding unleashed dogs in the city. He has witnessed unleashed dogs go after other dog owners and their leashed dogs, he would like a leash law enforced. Discussion followed regarding electric leashes. Silver Bay Police Dept. will be advised.

Mayor/Council Communication-None at this time.

2024 Audit Presentation- Josef Welch presented the 2024 year-end audit of financial statement and communications letter prepared by Bergan-KDV. The City received a clear and unqualified opinion from an independent auditor, which is the highest rating it can achieve. There was discussion on the Financial Health of the City, Net Income, Expenses, and Cash Investment. The Council reviewed the audit and thanked the administrative staff and department heads for their work on the audit and budget. Motion by DeRosier, second FitzGerald accept 2024 audit. MOTION CARRIED.

City Administrator – Nothing at this time.

City Attorney – Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS –

Water Treatment Facility Project Update- Hannah Patenaude, Bolton & Menk provided information related to the Water Treatment Facility and Booster Station Project. Costs received from Magney Construction are estimated to be \$12.2 million. The city has secured \$1,750,000 from Congressional Direct Spending and has been approved for a MN Public Facilities Authority loan (PFA) for remaining \$10+ million. Discussion regarding current water rates are unable to support an annual PFA loan payment between \$385,000- \$540,000 per year, raising water rates \$25-\$31/month, formula used to determine rate increase based on median household income, additional funding, metering of homes, and water rates in surrounding communities. The Public Utilities Commission has met and they are recommending raising water rates to the highest amount. Mayor LeBlanc stated that City Administrator Fralich has submitted applications for additional funding, met with Congressman Stauber's office in Washington, D.C., that he will be meeting with congressional leaders during his trip to Washington D.C., and reminded Council members that construction costs will just continue to rise. Consensus of Council is to table until future meeting when all council members are present and to call for a joint special meeting with PUC for further discussion. MOTION TABLED.

Perimeter Ditch Update- Letters with the Temporary Easement, Release of all Claims & Indemnification and Hold Harmless agreements have been sent to property owners along Adams Blvd who have the ditch running through their properties as well as property owners who could be potentially impacted by ditch work.

NEW BUSINESS –

Dark Skies Proclamation- Council reviewed a request from Amy Grillo seeking support in protecting dark skies by declaring International Dark Skies Week, April 21-28th. Discussion regarding lamps within the city have been changed to shine downward, encouraging businesses to shield lighting, and promotion of city as a dark sky location. Ray Parker expressed concern that some streets in the city are too dark and need more street lights for safety. TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.

North Shore Management Board Alternate- Mayor LeBlanc serves on the North Shore Management Board and is requesting an alternate board member be appointed if he is unable to attend. Motion by DeRosier, second LeBlanc to appoint FitzGerald as alternate. MOTION CARRIED.

Claims – Motion by DeRosier, second FitzGerald to approve payment of \$102,233.26 in unpaid claims and \$298,993.91 in paid claims. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor LeBlanc – Aye

Member Bautch – Absent

Member Hoff – Absent

Member FitzGerald - Aye

Member DeRosier – Aye

Motion by DeRosier, second FitzGerald to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson

Attest:

Wade LeBlanc, Mayor

Lana Fralich, City Administrator