

## CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

Monday, August 4, 2025

Present: Mayor Wade LeBlanc  
Richard DeRosier  
Shane Hoff  
Ben Bautch  
Jim FitzGerald

Lana Fralich, City Administrator  
Tim Costley, City Attorney  
Cole Ernest, Chief of Police  
Micaiah Schubert, Police Sergeant  
Joshua Stier, City Engineer, Bolton & Menk via ZOOM  
Rick Evans, Northshore Journal via ZOOM  
Kitty Mayo, Lake County Press via ZOOM  
Dustin Goutermont                      Ray Parker  
Ron & Barb Bautch                      Patrick & Catherine Miller  
Pitek Sandor                              Kelsie Johnson  
Debbie Russell                           Ed Maki  
June Talus                                Marcia Oates  
Erica Jensen                              Karen Rautio  
Chuckie Knudson                      Carolyn Hudyma  
John Anderson, Sawtooth 16, LLC

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

**Agenda** – Motion by DeRosier, second Hoff to approve the Agenda with addition to the Consent Agenda of Jesse Larson resignation from the Liquor Store and promotion of Micaiah Schubert to Police Sergeant. MOTION CARRIED.

### **Consent Agenda** –

#### **July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

#### **July 28, 2025 Special Workshop Minutes**

**Firearms Instructor Renewal Training- Micaiah Schubert-** Chief Ernest is recommending Micaiah Schubert attend renewal training for Firearms Instructor to maintain his Licensure. Training will be September 8-12, 2025 in McGregor, MN. The cost of the course is \$650 plus five days of lodging at \$125+tax per night, meals, mileage, 3 magazines and 1000 rounds of pistol ammunition, and 2 magazines and 1000 rounds of rifle ammunition.

**Side by Side Lease- SB Police Dept.-** Chief Ernest is requesting obtaining a side by side from Seagren's, a Kawasaki dealer, in Two Harbors. Kawasaki has a program that allows state or local law

enforcement, education, lifesaving, or search and rescue entities to use equipment for free as part of a promotional campaign. There would be no cost to the city.

**Donation of Used Baseball Field Dirt to Crystal Bay Township-** Crystal Bay Township is requesting the used ballfield dirt being removed for the multi-Modal Trailhead. The Council declares this surplus item as obsolete.

**Jesse Larson Resignation-** Jesse Larson has submitted her resignation as a part-time bartender effective immediately. Her last working day was July 22, 2025.

**Police Sergeant Promotion to Micaiah Schubert** – Recommendation of Officer Micaiah Schubert as Police Sergeant, effective August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with the additional \$1.25 pay increase to current wage, per the labor contract.

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

#### **Petitions, Requests, and Communications** –

**Public Comments-** None at this time.

**Lori Arnett Letter-** Lori Arnett has received a letter from the SBPD regarding high grass/weeds in her yard, which she considers to be a pollinator garden. She is requesting Council allow her to keep her garden as in the past. Discussion followed regarding state statute requirements for pollinator gardens and obtaining someone certified to determine if a property qualifies for a pollinator garden. The City will reach out to UMD and Lake County Soil and Water to see if someone would be qualified to determine if a pollinator garden.

**Mayor/Council Communication-** Mayor LeBlanc congratulated City Administrator Fralich on the work she has put into the Multi-Modal Trailhead Center project over the last seven years. Groundbreaking was held August 4<sup>th</sup> and was well attended by Federal, State, and Local Legislators, both past and present, IRRRB, MNDOT, DNR, ARDC, and other organizational representatives, residents, City Council, and members of various city boards. Construction began immediately following the groundbreaking ceremony.

#### **City Administrator** –

**Resolution 2025-#53 Bolton & Menk Proposal for Construction Administrative Services for Multi-Modal Trailhead Center-** Council reviewed a proposal from Bolton & Menk for Construction Administrative Services for the Trailhead (\$20,000), Field Staking (\$11,500), Construction Material Testing and Inspection Services (\$21,340), and Architectural Construction Services through DSGW, CMTA, and NCE (\$68,902) for a total construction cost of \$121,742. This amount is within the project budget, but it was noted there will be no on-site person for quality control due to budgetary constraints. Motion by Hoff, second DeRosier to adopt Resolution 2025-#53 Bolton & Menk Proposal for Construction Administrative Services for Multi-Modal Trailhead Center at a cost of \$121,742. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Member FitzGerald – Aye  
Member DeRosier – Aye

RESOLUTION 2025 – 53 WAS APPROVED: 5 aye, 0 nay, 0 excused

**Resolution 2025-#54 Bolton & Menk Proposal for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Services-**

Council reviewed a proposal from Bolton & Menk to prepare the necessary information to submit a grant to the MN DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation program for the perimeter ditching project. The grant is due August 11<sup>th</sup> and if the grant is awarded, it would help cover 50% of the costs associated with acquisition and removal of flood prone structures and property, engineering, design, and construction of improvements and water level control structures. Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to adopt Resolution 2025-#54 Bolton & Menk Proposal for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Services at a cost of \$5000.00. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Member FitzGerald – Aye  
Member DeRosier – Aye

RESOLUTION 2025 – 54 WAS APPROVED: 5 aye, 0 nay, 0 excused

City Attorney – Nothing at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**Perimeter Ditching-** Council Member Bautch and City Staff have been working on obtaining the temporary ditching forms, but a few are still outstanding. Discussion followed on the two stages the city is currently working on: Temporary Easements and Permanent Easements. Temporary easements would allow city staff to clean debris and branches from the ditch but property owners would need to hold the city harmless. The Permanent Easement, would be the long-term plan with securing and recording an easement or acquisition, surveying, engineering, construction, and maintenance of the perimeter ditch. Discussion continued relating the city working on obtaining funding, funds pending, that city staff and engineer have been working with Lake County Soil and Water to assist with obtaining funding, and noting that some grants will likely require additional elements for green infrastructure to the project. Discussion followed on acquiring property through eminent domain as a last resort, the eminent domain process, misinformation spread in the community, and possibly beginning the eminent domain process while attempting to complete permanent ditching access stage, and other tools available to establish easement areas, and responsibility of property owners to clean ditches that fall on their property.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**Blight Properties-** Chief Ernest reports that 30 Gibson, 25 Edwards, and 90 Banks are now compliant and are removed from the blight properties.

**47 Edwards-**No representation

**52 Adams-** Pitek Sandor reports his father, who is the owner of the property is unable to attend the meeting but they are working with the police department on cleaning up the property. Mayor LeBlanc stated Chief Ernest will advise Council when property is in compliance.

**14 Aiken-** No representation.

**17 Drake-** No representation.

**27 Aiken-** Oliver Miller states he will work with the police department and get in compliance with city code. Miller has removed some items. Chief Ernest stated that Miller has been helping the elderly in the community to get rid of their junk, which ends up in his yard which is part of the blight. Mayor LeBlanc stated Chief Ernest will advise Council when property is in compliance.

**34 Aiken-** Catherine and Patrick Miller state their yard has been cleaned up and that the tubs in the yard hold Miller's raised garden. Chief Ernest stated the property looks good but there is still some weed whipping needed. Mayor LeBlanc stated Chief Ernest will advise Council when property is in compliance.

**24 Edwards-** No representation.

**17 Arthur-** Per Chief Ernest, the owners are elderly and have arranged to have the vehicles removed. Chief Ernest suggested applying for the Neighborhood Revitalization grant to assist in costs. Mayor LeBlanc asked Chief Ernest to pass along the compliance information.

**27 Law-** No representation.

Consensus of Council was to obtain financial quote from an Abatement Company prior to the next Council meeting. If properties are in compliance at that time, they will be removed from blight list. Discussion regarding length of time for abatement clean up.

**Claims** – Motion by DeRosier, second FitzGerald to approve payment of \$221,023.63 in unpaid claims and \$517,491.54 in paid claims. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Member FitzGerald - Aye  
Member DeRosier – Aye

Motion by Hoff, second Bautch to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson

Attest:

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Wade LeBlanc, Mayor

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Lana Fralich, City Administrator