

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 P.M.

Monday, August 18, 2025

Present: Richard DeRosier
Shane Hoff
Ben Bautch
Jim FitzGerald

Excused: Mayor Wade LeBlanc

Lana Fralich, City Administrator
Tim Costley, City Attorney
Sarah Swedburg, Bolton & Menk via ZOOM
Kitty Mayo, Lake County Press via ZOOM
Rick Evans, Northshore Journal

Ray Parker

Julie Jensen

Nathan Stadler

Michelle Stadler

Donny Thompson

Debbie Russell

Kelsie Johnson

Carolyn Hudyma

Charlyse Knudson

Marcia Oates

John Anderson, Sawtooth 16, LLC

Tom Anderson, Sawtooth 16, LLC

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

Agenda – Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to approve the Agenda with addition to the Consent Agenda of Equipment Operator Hiring and Set Closed Meeting for Labor Negotiations. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consent Agenda –

August 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Reports – April 2025 & May 2025

Keetac Letter of Support- Mayor LeBlanc will sign letter of support for iron mining and Keetac's site-specific standard and variance.

ATV Minnesota Ride & Rally License Agreement- ATV Minnesota Ride & Rally event is September 26th & 27th, 2025 and requested use of the of the field area of Bayview Park along with the Rukavina Arena for the event as outlined in the license agreement.

State of MN Split Rock Lighthouse License Agreement- Split Rock Lighthouse requested to use the field area of Bayview Park for parking during the 50th Anniversary of the Edmund FitzGerald Beacon Lighting event November 8-11, 2025 as outlined in the license agreement.

Boathouse Bay Change Order #3- Change Order #3, as requested by the bank, relates to the TIF. The adjustment it to reflect actual quantities used to date, resulting in a deduction of \$120.82. City Engineer has signed.

Equipment Operator Hiring- Thomas Rowlee has been provided a conditional offer for the open Equipment Operator position, pending successful completion of background and pre-employment

physical, with starting wage at 80% full time wage for six months, 90% following and full wage at one year pending successful completion of probation, and an effective date to be determined once conditions of offer have been met.

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

Petitions, Requests, and Communications –

Public Comments- None at this time.

Mayor/Council Communication-

Governor Walz Congratulations Letter- Letter was received from Governor Walz congratulating the City on the Multi-Modal Trailhead Center.

City Administrator –

Set Closed Meeting for Labor Negotiations- Motion by Bautch, second FitzGerald to set Closed Meeting for Labor Negotiations on September 2, 2025, immediately following regular City Council meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

City Attorney –

Set Public Hearing for City Code- Motion by Bautch, second Hoff to set Public Hearing for 7:00P.M. on September 15th to take public comments regarding the updates to City Codes. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS – None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS –

Bolton & Menk Lead Service Line Public Engagement- Sarah Swedburg, Bolton & Menk provided information regarding the upcoming lead inspections to be conducted on behalf of the city. The State of MN is requiring all cities inventory both public and private water lines for lead and has provided grant funding to have Bolton & Menk conduct inspections and create an inventory to be entered into a data base. While inspections are being conducted for lead on properties prior to 1986. There will be information provided to the public during an informational meeting on August 25th, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Inspections will begin end of August to be completed by October 31st. Discussion regarding homeowners receiving letters stating water lines are “unknown”, is most likely due to city owned lines being undetermined, and potential to obtain grants in the future to assist in remediation if lead pipes are found.

Mary MacDonald Operations & Capital Review- Set Joint Meeting- After review of information relating to operations and capital improvement needs, the Mary MacDonald Committee is recommending a joint work session to include Council, EDA, Mary Mac Committee, tenants, and interested residents to discuss the future of the Mary Mac building. Council reviewed survey responses of tenants, Revenue & Expenditures for 2024 through May 2025, an estimate from Jamar for repair costs of roof and walls, and financing received through MN Rural Water. Consensus of Council was to set a Special Joint meeting of City Council, Mary Mac Committee, and EDA for Monday, September 8th at 4:00 p.m. at the Reunion Hall.

Claims – Motion by Bautch, second FitzGerald to approve payment of \$412,963.66 in unpaid claims and \$547,305.21 in paid claims. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor LeBlanc – Absent

Member FitzGerald - Aye

Member Bautch – Aye

Member DeRosier – Aye

Member Hoff – Aye

Motion by Hoff, second FitzGerald to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson

Attest:

Wade LeBlanc, Mayor

Lana Fralich, City Administrator