

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting Center City Council
February 6, 2024**

Mayor Behnke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Jill Behnke, Council Members: Mark Wolcott, Ryan Pease, Garrett Boulineau, Lloyd Vetter (remote)

Others Present: City Clerk Dana Miron, Public Works Supervisor Eric Garner, Chisago County Press Denise Martin, Lynne Karwand, Eldon Karwand, Chris DuBose, Mark Baumann, Barry Moe

Consent Agenda: February Agenda, Regular Council Meeting Minutes January, Special Meeting Minutes January, Planning Commission Minutes January, January Claims. Behnke requested new business number 6 be added as Grant Writing. Wolcott requested addition of utility bills and fire contracts to Budget Committee report. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Pease to approve the consent agenda with the addition to new business and committee reports. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0

OPEN FORUM:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Old Jail Demolition:** Behnke stated nothing new. Miron had an inquiry on utility billing for the property. Currently there are 3 parcels. The County will be contacted to inquire about future plans.
2. **AT&T:** Nothing new at this time.
3. **Hursh Iron Works:** Behnke stated that a meeting did take place and that they do indeed plan to move, possibly to Taylors Falls. **Water/Sewer connections:** a permit application has been received to connect to City water. Council discussed and will require BOTH water and sewer, as well as an agreement on future connections/requirements. Motion to table the discussion by Pease and seconded by Wolcott. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter Aye. Motion carried 5-0
4. **DNR Fishing Pier:** Nothing new at this time.
5. **Local Road Improvement Project (LRIP):** Expecting notification in February/March
6. **City Property Inventory (May)**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance #2024-02-06:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF CENTER CITY BY REZONING THREE PARCELS OF LAND FROM B-1 DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT WITH A SL SHORELAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OVERLAY TO POS PUBLIC AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT WITH A SL SHORELAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OVERLAY: Behnke stated that the Planning Commission met and the recommendation is to approve the rezoning of the property. Motion made by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to DENY the rezoning of the property. Boulineau aye, Pease nay, Behnke nay, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 3-2

2. **Resolution #2024-02-06: A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTER CITY, MINNESOTA AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY:** Motion to approve the proposed property exchange by Wolcott and seconded by Pease. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0
3. **Election Judge Appointments and Compensation:** Election judge appointee's: Scott Anderson, Elizabeth Buchholz, Roy Buchholz, Tammy Brazil, Eric Garner (head), Joan Tabak, Norma Anderson at a rate of \$12/hour for judges and \$13/hour for head judge. Motion to approve with substitutions as needed by the City Clerk made by Pease and seconded by Wolcott. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0
4. **Board of Appeals Schedule:** April 18th, 2024 at 6 pm.
5. **Planning Commission Member Requirements:** Behnke explained that one member will need to reside in Lindstrom for a short time. According to City Code the Council has the ability to appoint one non-resident to the Planning Commission if that person owns, operates, or is in a managerial position of a business conducted in the city. Chris DuBose spoke about his current situation and has/does business within Center City. Motion to appoint DuBose for Planning Commission and revisit status in 6 months by Pease and seconded by Vetter. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0
6. **Grants:** Behnke updated Council about ongoing grant opportunities. The East Central Regional Arts Council grant for the Elf House has been submitted. There is a planning assistance grant available for Safe Routes to School program. It would allow the Chisago Lakes School District and all 5 cities to have a plan for Safe Routes to School. She is working with East Central Regional Development to move forward with that. Grant applied to Empowering Minnesota Small Communities which may help with design, cost, and planning for things like paving, roads, paths, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Fire Department:** Nothing new at this time.
2. **Public Works:**
 - A: Commercial Water Meters:** PW Garner requested the City order 2 new commercial meters to be installed in current locations that are in need of being replaced. Motion by Pease to order the new meters and hire required licensed plumber to install, seconded by Wolcott. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried.
 - B: Tree Removal Quotes:** PW Garner presented 3 quotes on tree removal services for a dying tree on City property known as Borg's Bluff. Motion to approve the quote by Lawrence Creek Contracting at \$1430 made by Pease and seconded by Boulineau. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0
3. **Clerk/Treasurer:**
 - A: Grant Writing Workshop:** Clerk Miron asked Council if they would like her to pursue additional knowledge on grant writing and that there is a workshop on 2/15 in North Branch. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter for Miron to attend. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0
 - B: Car Fire Invoice:** Clerk Miron stated that she has been working with City Attorney Alliegro on the claim.
4. **Personnel:** There was a special meeting earlier this month regarding the hire of a temporary part time public works employee. An ad was placed in the paper. There are currently 3 applications submitted. Special meeting set up for February 15th at 6 pm.
5. **Planning Commission:** Planning Commission met and approved the rezoning of the property as stated in new business number 1. They also had Nic Kirvida present with his ideas for the vacant building on

his property. City Planner John Anderson continues to work on the text amendments for shipping container use in the business district.

6. Wellhead Protection: Maps were updated around the wells last week. No changes noted.

7. Ordinance Committee: Nothing at this time

8. Budget Committee:

A: Water Bills: Wolcott updated Council on several corrections made to utility accounts. Corrections to 3 commercial accounts showed significant underbilling since January of 2022. Several accounts were also slightly overbilled and credit was given to those. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to have the Clerk bill for collection on these underbilled accounts. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0

B: Fire Contracts: Wolcott proposes an increase on the fire contracts of 10%, or 5% each of the next 2 years. Plans to attend both Franconia Township and Chisago Lakes Township meetings this month.

9. HPC: Nothing at this time

10. Parks: Will be meeting with National Parks Service on Friday

11. Library: Vetter stated that some of the fluorescent emergency lighting is beginning to fail and will need to be replaced.

12. Sewer Board:

13. Highway 8: Nothing new at this time

14. EDA: Met prior to this Council meeting

15. Visitor's Bureau: Nothing new at this time

16. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon: Will be meeting Wednesday night.

MOTION by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Boulineau aye, Pease aye, Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Vetter aye. Motion carried 5-0

Attest

City Clerk, Dana Miron

Mayor, Jill Behnke