

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting Center City Council  
April 4th, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 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, Lloyd Vetter, Ryan Pease, and Garrett Boulineau

**Others Present:** City Clerk Dana Miron, Public Works Supervisor Eric Garner, City Attorney Ted Alliegro, City Engineer Marcus Johnson, Chisago County Press Denise Martin, Fire Chief Travis Greene

**Consent Agenda:** April Agenda, Minutes Regular Council March, March Claims. Motion by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to approve the consent agenda Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried

**OPEN FORUM:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Old Jail Demolition:** Nothing new at this time.
2. **AT&T:** PW Garner stated that AT&T has not yet sent the check to cover costs.
3. **Hursh Iron Works:** Attorney Ted Alliegro stated nothing new to report right now.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Hemp Ordinance #2023-04-04:** Attorney Alliegro stated this is a one-year moratorium and a more detailed ordinance will need to be created once more legislation is passed. Motion to approve the ordinance by Wolcott, seconded by Pease. Behnke aye, Wolcott aye, Pease aye, Vetter aye, Boulineau nay. Motion carried 4-1

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Fire Department:**

**A: Annual Report:** Greene stated that the annual report is out. Last year 152 calls, 55 were in the City. 3600 hours between training and runs. Currently 19 members, 1 in school, and 1 going this fall.

**B: Liquor License:** Greene requested a temporary (4 day) liquor license for Center City Days July 28-30, 2023. Motion by Pease, seconded by Vetter to approve the request. Ayes-5, Nays-0 Motion carried.

**C: PERA:** Greene presented Council with a cost analysis form for PERA pension plan increases.

**D: Controlled Burn:** Greene stated that the fire department will be doing fire training as well as a controlled burning of the old Moody house likely the last week of April or early May. Lindstrom and Shafer fire departments also plan to be attending.

**E: Equipment:** Greene informed Council that he has gotten quotes for a new air compressor. The current one is over 25 years old and leaking considerable oil. The new quote is \$23,272.86 installed with old one removed, covered in the equipment fund. It has been ordered but there is a 6 week wait. Old fire truck that is sale pending will be placed outside the fire hall.

**2. Public Works:**

**A: Road Patching:** PW Garner stated that road/pothole patching will begin as soon as possible, weather permitting.

**B: Seasonal Employee:** PW Garner requested that previous employee Anthony James be rehired for seasonal employment. PW Garner also requested an earlier start date of May 1<sup>st</sup> and end date of September 15<sup>th</sup>. He also stated he will not call him in unless weather permits. Motion by Vetter and seconded by Boulineau to approve the rehire with dates of 5/15 to 9/15 with the option to call him in early as needed and as early as 5/1/2023. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

**3. Clerk/Treasurer:**

**A: Conference:** Clerk Miron requested a change in conference attendance. She would like to attend the LMC conference June 21-23 in Duluth. Motion by Boulineau and seconded by Vetter to approve the registration and hotel stay. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

**B: LMC Liability Waiver:** Council discussed what has been done in the past. Attorney Alliegro advised to not waive. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Pease to not waive on the liability coverage – waiver form.

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

**C: Treasurer Banking Policy:** Council discussed possible changes, suggested checking with auditors and other cities. Send to policy committee for possible changes or alternatives.

**4. Personnel:** Personnel Policy will be edited and drafted for Council to review.

**5. Planning Commission:** Nothing at this time

**6. Zoning and Wellhead Protection:** Nothing at this time

**7. Ordinance:** Meeting is planned for April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**8. Budget Committee:**

**A: Water and Sewer Rates:** Wolcott states they have been working on this for several months. There have been no increases for 5 years. ARP funds did cover purchase of some meters and readers last year, but funds have been dropping. Utility bills will be mailed out next week, an increase notice can be sent out at that time. Fee schedule to be revised by ordinance committee. Motioned by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to approve rate increases as discussed effective 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

**9. HPC:** Nothing at this time

**10. Parks:** NP met and discussed possible shelter/pavilion designs. Next meeting set for April 14<sup>th</sup>. City parks committee meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Library:** Council Vetter stated that they met on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Curb needs repair, children's area needs painting, white lines need to be repainted in parking lot. Meeting set with Chase Burnham on the 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss County responsibility for structural issues (curb). Chisago City will be doing the street sweeping of the parking lot.

**12. Sewer Board:** Running good, and there are 3 new members on the board.

**13. Highway 8 Task Force:** Met on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Council Wolcott stated that applications for funding have been filled out. Results to be announced in May/June. Next meeting is in June.

**14. EDA:** Met prior to Council meeting. Hodge Lodge plans to open on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Pizza Pub to have their first monthly meat raffle on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Proceeds will go to the Center City Fire Department.

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

**16. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:** Mayor Behnke said they met last month and will be meeting quarterly. Signing up for a few local events. Local events and contact information posted online both Facebook page and website.

**MOTION by Vetter and seconded by Pease to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Attest

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City Clerk

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Mayor