

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting Center City Council  
September 5, 2023**

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, Attorney Ted Alleigro, City Engineer Marcus Johnson, Chisago County Press Denise Martin, Ben Elfelt, Scott Anderson, Chris DuBose

**Consent Agenda:** September Agenda, Minutes Regular Council August, Minutes Special Council 8/9, Minutes Special Council 8/29, August Claims. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to approve the consent agenda with correction noted on claims for attorney fees, and additions to agenda under Public Works Department. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Old Jail Demolition:** PW Garner stated that work has begun, Rachel Contracting has the contract for demolition. Triple E Water has been on site attempting to disconnect water and sewer in preparation.
2. **AT&T:** Nothing new at this time.
3. **Hursh Iron Works:** Attorney Alleigro stated that Hursh Iron Works has found a new location and will be closing on the property at some point in September.
4. **DNR Fishing Pier:** Nothing new at this time.
5. **Initiative Foundation Donation:** Council Wolcott stated the amount of \$260 is in the budget for 2024.
6. **Lake Shops: Patio:** Attorney Alleigro stated that legal descriptions have been drawn and drafted for the parcels of property. A title search will need to be done clarifying ownership. Council discussed that they had agreed to the land swap without cost to the City. Motion by Pease and seconded by Vetter to approve the order for abstracting and exam with the fees paid by Tom Bui.  
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **LID: Benjamin Elfelt:** Administrator Ben Elfelt from Lake Improvement District introduced himself and presented a short description and explanation of what they do for the community. The LIDS mission is to restore, preserve, protect, and enhance the waters within the district.
2. **Fiesta Cancun: Liquor Licenses:** Clerk Miron presented the application for Fiesta as representation was unavailable on this date. Fiesta Cancun is requesting approval for an on-sale and Sunday liquor license with plans of opening in October in the Lake Shops Mall. Motion to approve by Pease, seconded by Wolcott. Ayes – 5 Nays -0 Motion carried.
3. **City Newsletter: Ads:** Council Wolcott discussed the addition of adding information nonspecific to the City to the mailing of the water and sewer bills next quarter. Both the Center City Historical Society and Center City Improvement Group are looking for new members. Council discussed without opposition.
4. **Historical Society Donation:** Chisago County Historical Society sent a donation request letter. Motion by Vetter and seconded by Boulineau to donate \$100 to the Historical Society. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.

5. **Preliminary Budget Levy: Resolution #2023-09-05A:** Council read through and had no further comments or questions. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Pease to approve Resolution #2023-09-05A with total levy amount of \$355,500. Ayes -5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
6. **Truth & Taxation Meeting Date:** Council discussed the meeting date to coincide with regular Council meeting in December. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to have the Truth & Taxation meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
7. **Establishment of Permit Fees:** PW Garner presented Council with a new form designed around existing ordinances for grading/excavation/retaining walls/driveways. The permit fee is to cover staff costs to the city. Motion by Pease and seconded by Boulineau to approve the form and \$100 permit fee. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Fire Department:** Pension funds will be reviewed in November
2. **Public Works:**
  - A: Sewer and Water Meters:** PW Garner presented Council with an estimate for a magnetic flow meter replacement at a cost of \$9,879 and a waste water replacement meter at \$12,497. Council discussed pros and cons of replacement with a magnetic flow rather than a propeller meter as it has now. Council asked if rebuilding of the current meter was an option for which Garner replied that it would be expensive and his recommendation is to replace. Council also discussed the second meter and timelines for replacement. Council inquired about additional quotes from other suppliers or installers. Garner replied that he had not sought any on the water meter but plans to get additional quote on waste water meter. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to replace the water meter at \$9,879 with Sogard Electric doing the electric work for \$1100. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
  - B: Repair of curb stop and water gate valve:** PW Garner presented a quote from Lawrence Creek Contracting for excavation and curb stop repair work at 516 Park Island and the excavation and water gate valve repair at the corner of Moody and Center Avenue at a price of up to \$1000 each. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Pease to approve the repairs as quoted. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
  - C: Progressive Insurance Denial of coverage:** Garner stated that after the car fire on August 15<sup>th</sup> on Grand Avenue he had submitted an invoice to the vehicle owner’s insurance company. The company sent a letter of denial for payment. Council discussed owner responsibility. Motion by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to invoice the vehicles owner for cost of repairs to the street. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
  - D: Extension for seasonal worker:** Garner requested an extension for seasonal worker Katie XXX as he will be out for 2 weeks beginning September 12<sup>th</sup> and extending her end date may be helpful. Her original end date was September 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to extend her end date to September 29<sup>th</sup>. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
3. **Clerk/Treasurer:**
  - A: Website:** Tabled
4. **Personnel:** Nothing at this time
5. **Planning Commission:** Met for discussion only on the 340 Summit and 280 Andrews
6. **Wellhead Protection:** Nothing at this time
7. **Ordinance Committee:** Meeting set up for September 19<sup>th</sup>.
8. **Budget Committee:** Special meeting was held August 29<sup>th</sup> for Preliminary Budget and Levy
9. **HPC:** Mayor Behnke reminded Council of the Preserve MN coming up September 27-29. Member Bob O’Neil would like to attend with member Peter Osterberg. Behnke requested the city pay for his registration. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Pease to pay the \$120 registration fee. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion passed.
10. **Parks:** Mayor Behnke informed Council that she applied for a Chisago Lakes Foundation grant of \$5000. She was notified that the grant was approved and will receive the funds on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The grant is to be used to fund the additional dock purchase. The fire department also donated \$1000 towards the dock. Behnke also stated that the National Park Service with the assistant program are hoping to present concept designs on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the fire department open house.

**11. Library:** Nothing at this time.

**12. Sewer Board:** Council Vetter stated that the compost road has been completed, they are doing some generator inspections, flow rates are over what they were in 2022. Treatment charges are less than anticipated so far in 2023. Disc golf has been approved.

**13. Highway 8:** Meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**14. EDA:** Nothing at this time.

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

**16. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:** Will be at the 911 remembrance event in Chisago City on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

**Attest**

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**City Clerk**

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**Mayor**