

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting Center City Council  
October 3, 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, Garrett Boulineau

**Others Present:** City Clerk Dana Miron, Public Works Supervisor Eric Garner, Attorney Ted Alliegro, Chisago County Press Denise Martin, Pamela Niemczycki, Leonel Sotello, Brian Dietz

**Consent Agenda:** October Agenda, Minutes Regular Council September, Minutes Planning Commission September, September Claims. Motion by Council Pease and seconded by Council Vetter to approve the consent agenda. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM:** Mayor Behnke opened the forum at 7:04 pm. Leonel Sotello spoke to Council about a proposed driveway on his property at 137 North Main Street. He was advised by Council that he will need a certified survey with his proposed plan on it submitted as well as an application for 2 variances needed for what he has described with side yard setback and impervious surfaces. The DNR will also need to be consulted and approval required. No other public comment. Mayor Behnke closed the open forum at 7:16 pm

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Old Jail Demolition:** PW Garner stated that work is currently underway.
2. **AT&T:** Nothing new at this time.
3. **Hursh Iron Works:** Attorney Alliegro stated that Hursh Iron Works was to be closing on a property in September but he was unable to verify the status.
4. **DNR Fishing Pier:** PW Garner has been in touch with them and expressed that the City is interested. The DNR would like to make a site visit to determine if the present dock has any salvageable value to them. If it is not then the city may be able to have it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution #10-03-2023: Fiesta Cancun Sign CUP** Mayor Behnke stated that the Planning Commission approved the conditional use permit changes to accommodate the size of the signs. Motion to approve by Council Pease and seconded by Council Wolcott. Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion carried.
2. **Community Engagement & Outreach – CLSD:** Chisago Lakes School District Superintendent Brian Dietz presented information about the school district and improvements that they would like to be made. There is a levy referendum on the ballot on November 7th, 2023.
3. **Ordinance No. 2023-10-03 Adding Chapter #118** concerning hemp use in public spaces. Motion to approve by Council Vetter and seconded by Council Wolcott. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0 Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Fire Department:** October 14<sup>th</sup> will be an open house for the fire department.
2. **Public Works:** PW Garner stated that flowers have been taken down, getting ready to move the fishing pier and docs before winter. Chlorinating and hydrant flushing are scheduled for mid-month.

**3. Clerk/Treasurer:**

**A: Meter radio heads:** PW Garner stated that there are approximately 50 radio head replacements in stock. Clerk Miron stated that there are 36 additional “no-reads” this quarter and that 2 attempts were made to get the readings. Garner suggested that 50 get ordered as there may be a delay in availability. Motion by Council Vetter and seconded by Council Pease to approve an order for an additional 50 radio heads. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0 Motion carried.

**4. Personnel:** Nothing at this time

**5. Planning Commission:** Planning commission met and recommended the resolution presented (above)

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

**7. Ordinance Committee:** Meeting will be scheduled

**8. Budget Committee:** Council Wolcott talked about the fire department and options for increasing their retirement funds that they have requested. Committee will meet again and have more info in November.

**9. HPC:** Mayor Behnke stated that a couple committee members attended a conference in September and will hopefully have some new information to share at the next meeting.

**10. Parks:** Mayor Behnke stated they are hoping to present concept designs on October 14<sup>th</sup> on location for both businesses and residents to attend and welcome their commentary.

**11. Library:** Council Vetter stated that they met last week and that the library will be used as one of the polling places for the November 7<sup>th</sup> election. New computer chairs have replaced 8 original chairs.

**12. Sewer Board:** Council Vetter stated that projects and inspections are getting completed. Flow rates have decreased and the hope is that when averaged out at year end it will be comparable to past years.

**13. Highway 8:** Council Wolcott said they had a meeting. There were endangered bat species found within the project area between Forest Lake and Chisago City. There will be a pause as they will need to do an environmental study and this could take an additional year or more.

**14. EDA:** Meeting preceded this council meeting.

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

**16. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:** Mayor Behnke stated that there will be an event on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Uncommon Loon in Chisago City. There will be a silent auction and a band.

**MOTION by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Attest

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City Clerk

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Mayor