

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting Center City Council
November 8, 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, Mark Baumann, Mike Farkas, Cory Lindgren, Chris DuBose, Scott Anderson, Kevin Kirvida, Nic Kirvida, Dan Twohy.

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

OPEN FORUM: Mayor Behnke opened the forum at 7:02 pm.

Resident Mike Farkus presented with questions and concerns on water and sewer rates. He would like consideration to be made or alterations in the billing process to be made for the use of water during summer months that does not enter the sewer system. Currently one meter is used to read water usage and that usage is used to calculate sewer charges. Council is willing to look at the data that Farkus has collected if/when he brings that to city hall.

Business owner Kevin Kirvida presented with information/research regarding the proposed use of a shipping container as a retaining wall at his location on Summit Ave. Currently City ordinances prohibit the containers within city limits. Mayor Behnke advised that the Planning Commission take a look at possible changes to the ordinance, followed by the ordinance committee and public hearing as needed.

Mayor Behnke closed the open forum at 7:44 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Old Jail Demolition:** Mayor Behnke conveyed that the County will be putting the property up for sale. They have inquired about what the City would prefer as its future use.
2. **AT&T:** PW Garner said they have the generator hooked up and should be putting the fence up very soon.
3. **Hursh Iron Works:** Attorney Alliegro stated that he understands that they do plan to move. They have requested a meeting with Mayor Behnke and himself next week.
4. **DNR Fishing Pier:** PW Garner has moved the current pier to its winter location. Nothing new from the DNR.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. LARA (Lakes Area Recreation Association) Fiesta Cancun Charitable Gambling:** Cory Lindgren, gambling manager for LARA, presented to Council with plans for Fiesta Cancun for a booth and/or dispenser for the sale of pull tabs, e-tabs, and possible bar bingo. CCFD Dan Twohy stated that the fire department does not want to man a booth on site and therefore are willing to pass on gambling at this location at this time. Wolcott spoke with Council about a city ordinance that states 10% of an outside organizations' profits be dedicated to the City of Center City. Lindgren is familiar with the forms LG214 and LG510 and financial reports that need to be completed. Motion by Council Pease and seconded by Council Wolcott to approve lawful gambling by LARA at Fiesta Cancun by booth or dispensary, with the 10% lawful gambling contribution fund for the City of Center City. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
- 2. New Liquor License Tony's Bar & Grill:** On-Sale, Sunday, Tobacco: Motion by Council Wolcott and seconded by Council Pease to approve on-sale, Sunday and tobacco licenses for Tony's Bar & Grill located at 325 Summit Ave. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
- 3. Liquor License Renewals:**
 - Pizza Pub** On-Sale, Sunday, 2 AM: Motion by Council Wolcott and seconded by Council Vetter to approve the renewal of the liquor licenses for Pizza Pub. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
 - Fiesta Cancun** On-Sale, Sunday: Motion by Council Boulineau and seconded by Council Vetter to approve the renewal of the liquor licenses for Fiesta Cancun. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
 - Jake's on the Lakes** Off-Sale, On-Sale, Sunday: Motion by Council Vetter and seconded by Council Pease to approve the renewal of the liquor licenses for Jake's on the Lakes. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
- 4. Voter Fund Allocation Agreement Chisago County/Center City:** Motion by Council Wolcott and seconded by Council Vetter to approve the fund allocation agreement. Ayes-5 Nays-0
- 5. Resolution #2023-11-8:** Pursuit of 2023 Local Road Improvement Program Funds. Motion by Council Pease and seconded by Council Vetter to sign the resolution and submit a request for support to Chisago County. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
- 6. Chisago County Sheriff's Department Contract 2024:** Motion by Council Wolcott and seconded by Council Vetter to approve and sign the 2024 law enforcement contract. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Fire Department:** PW Garner stated that they have been resurfacing the floors at the fire barn.
- 2. Public Works:** County road salt prices will stay the same this winter season. Council confirmed the snow plow removal at 509 Crescent Road for Luke Anderson will be \$50 per time. Garner has plans to do tree trimming and patching while the weather remains warmer than normal.
- 3. Clerk/Treasurer:** Car fire invoice remains unpaid. Attorney Alliegro suggested sending a letter with a final invoice letting them know that conciliation court will be the next step.
- 4. Personnel:** Nothing at this time
- 5. Planning Commission:** Met for discussion only on shipping container used as retaining wall.
- 6. Wellhead Protection:** Nothing at this time
- 7. Ordinance Committee:**
- 8. Budget Committee:** Council Wolcott shared an estimated cost summary for retirement funds for the fire department with the suggestion of increasing the benefit from \$2300 to \$2500 per year of service. Motion by Council Wolcott and seconded by Council Vetter to approve the increase to the retirement fund effective January 1, 2024. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
- 9. HPC:** Nothing at this time
- 10. Parks:** Nothing at this time
- 11. Library:** Nothing at this time

- 12. Sewer Board:** Council Vetter stated that the main lift station was discussed. Other projects completed.
- 13. Highway 8:** Mayor Behnke was invited to a meeting with Senator Klobuchar to discuss the Highway 8 project. Heard a presentation by Joe Triplett and expressed concern on support for the trails.
- 14. EDA:** Council discussed possible uses of the County owned property on N Main Street.
- 15. Visitor's Bureau:** Mayor Behnke stated that they had a meeting. Sarah Soderlund and Jana Swenson are the new hires.
- 16. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:** Nothing at this time

**MOTION by Council Vetter and seconded by Council Boulineau to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm.
Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Attest

City Clerk

Mayor