

**Minutes from the Regular Meeting Center City Council
December 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, 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, Jerry Carlson

Consent Agenda: December Agenda, Minutes Regular Council November, November Claims. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter to approve the consent agenda with the additions of CLJSC Resolution as #10, MDG 2024 Contract as #11, and LRIP Grant Application as #12. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM: Behnke opened the forum at 7:04 pm. No public comment

REGULAR MEETING: Behnke closed meeting at 7:04 pm

PUBLIC HEARING: Truth and Taxation 2024. Behnke opened the forum at 7:04. No public comment
Hearing closed at 7:09 pm.

REGULAR MEETING: Behnke reopened at 7:09 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Old Jail Demolition:** Behnke stated that Don Skelly has been in touch and will be connecting with the County with his ideas. Zoning is yet to be determined.
2. **AT&T:** PW Garner stated the fence around the generator is completed. No other news at this time.
3. **Hursh Iron Works:** Attorney Alliegro stated that he understands that they do plan to move. Meeting did not take place. They have inquired about water and sewer connections to make the property more attractive to buyers.
4. **DNR Fishing Pier:** Nothing new at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution #2023-12-05-A LMC Grant Support.** Resolution authorizing application for grant navigation support for the City. Motion to approve the resolution by Wolcott and seconded by Pease. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
2. **Resolution #2023-12-05-B LMC Grant Acceptance.** Resolution accepting grant navigator funding. The LMC has notified the City that they have approved the grant funding of \$5000. Funds will be used to pay Bolten & Menk for grant writing services. Motion to approve the resolution by Pease and seconded by Vetter. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
3. **Resolution #2023-12-05-C Budget and Levy 2024.** Resolution for FINAL 2024 budget and levy. Motion to approve the resolution by Wolcott and seconded by Vetter. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

4. **Resolution #2023-12-05-D Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan.** Resolution opting to increase the benefit level for firefighters who are vested in the statewide volunteer firefighter plan. This is an increase from \$2300 to \$2500. Motion to approve the resolution by Pease and seconded by Vetter. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
5. **Ordinance #2023-12-05-O Clarifying Ordinance Numbering.** Ordinance clarifying/correcting numbering of certain adopted ordinances and ordinance amendments. Motion by Wolcott and seconded by Boulineau to approve the ordinance. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
6. **Resolution #2023-12-05-E Center City Polling Location.** Resolution establishing polling place in the city of Center City. Motion to approve the resolution by Pease and seconded by Boulineau. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
7. **2024 Council Meeting and Planning Commission Dates.** Council discussed proposed meeting dates and adjustments due to holidays and election dates. Motion to approve with discussed changes by Pease and seconded by Wolcott. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
8. **Liquor License Renewal Toy's Bar & Grill: On-Sale, Sunday, Tobacco.** Motion to approve the license renewals for Tony's Bar & Grill by Wolcott and seconded by Pease. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
9. **Elf House: Grant Application, Jerry Carlson.** Mayor Behnke shared that she had met with Carlson and he is interested in adding an elf house to one of the Center City parks. Carlson stated that he and his son create and maintain these Huldudfolk houses which are small Icelandic elf houses also called Nisser and Tomtes in Scandinavian culture. He puts mailboxes on the houses so that people can write messages or wishes to the elves. He stated that there is a grant opportunity that the City can apply for that may cover the cost for one of these houses, and that his wife is willing to do the grant writing. Motion by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to apply for the grant with the assistance of Jerry's wife to add an elf house to a Center City park. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
10. **Municipal Development Group 2024 Contract** Discussed by Council, the contract is at the same rate continued for year 2024. Motion to accept the contract for services with MDG by Vetter and seconded by Boulineau. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
11. **Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment Commission (CLJSTC) Resolution.** Resolution authorizing the CLJSTC to issue, sell and deliver a \$1,019,000 general obligation sewer revenue note, series 2024A, and award the sale thereof. Council discussed City obligation portion. Motion to approve the resolution by Vetter and seconded by Pease. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
12. **Bolten & Menk Local Road Improvement Project (LRIP) Application.** Motion by Pease and seconded by Boulineau to approve sending in the grant application. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Fire Department:** Small town Christmas event was a success.
2. **Public Works:** Brush cutting and tree trimming underway. Salvaged jail cells will be picked up this week.
3. **Clerk/Treasurer:** Move forward with claim on car fire invoice. City attorney is willing to assist.
4. **Personnel:** Nothing at this time
5. **Planning Commission:** Nothing at this time
6. **Wellhead Protection:** Nothing at this time
7. **Ordinance Committee: 2024 Earned Safe and Sick Time.** Motion to adopt state guidelines for Safe and Sick time by January 1, 2024 by Wolcott and seconded by Pease. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried
8. **Budget Committee:**
 - A: 2024 Employee Wages: Motion by Vetter and seconded by Wolcott to approve the wage increases as discussed and as suggested by the budget committee. Aye-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.
 - B: FD Radio Fund: Council discussed and will wait until after the end of the year to start a fund.

C: PW Part-time injury: Behnke summarized the injury that resulted in stitches for the public works employee that happened while salvaging the old jail cell from the county property/demolition site. Discussion included questions regarding filing a worker's compensation claim or if the city would be allowed to pay for the medical care. Motion by Pease and seconded by Wolcott to pay the bill if the City is allowed to do so. Ayes-5 Nays-0 Motion carried.

9. **HPC:** Behnke stated that they met and did have a request from the State on historical information. Mary Grimm is going to review the information the City has and can be sent to the State.
10. **Parks:** National Park Service will be meeting. Will be looking at possible funding for trail head.
11. **Library:** Vetter said they met and have been discussing the possible locations that can be used for the pick up of Narcan that the public would be comfortable accessing. They also renewed the snow plowing contract for this winter season.
12. **Sewer Board:** Vetter recapped that the board met and the resolution that was presented earlier in the meeting.
13. **Highway 8:** Nothing new at this time.
14. **EDA:** Met prior to Council meeting.
15. **Visitor's Bureau:** Behnke said there has been a transition period with the change in employees in the executive director position and the business manager position.
16. **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon:** Nothing at this time

MOTION by Vetter and seconded by Pease to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Attest

City Clerk, Dana Miron

Mayor, Jill Behnke