

**Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Monday, January 25, 2021
City of Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota**

1. The Hoyt Lakes City Council met in regular session via Zoom/phone-in due to COVID-19 on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Those present: Mayor Chris Vreeland; Councilors: David Zins, Daniel Popp, Christine Peterson, Deborah Kramar. City staff also present: City Attorney Mitchell Brunfelt, City Clerk-Treasurer Burich, Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West, EMS Director Olmstead, Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger.

2. Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Peterson, approving the following items from the consent agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Item 3 City Council meeting minutes of January 11, 13 and 20, 2021.

Item 7 Filing of correspondence:
Hoyt Lakes Fire Department – January 6, 2021 meeting minutes;
MN Department of Health – Water Treatment Plant Quarterly report dated January 11, 2021;
East Range Joint Powers Board – Proposed SLC business grant program;
Planning Commission – January 19, 2021 meeting minutes.

Item 9A Reschedule the following City Council meetings due to Holidays: From Monday, October 11 to Tuesday, October 12, 2021 and from Monday December 27, to Tuesday December 28, 2021.

Item 10 Receipts, claims and payroll:
Claims: \$348,846.02
Payroll Earnings: \$53,617.26
Payroll Employer Costs: \$7,490.88
Payroll Total: \$61,108.14
Total Claims & Payroll: \$409,954.16

3. Guests and Citizens Forum:

Jon Stodola with East Range Sportsman’s Conservation Club was present to request assistance for completing a skeet range to be constructed at the trap club (East Range Sportsman’s Club) located in the Town of White. This is independent from school district sports and would support Mesabi East Giants and Rock Ridge Wolverines as it does with the trap club. City Attorney Brunfelt confirmed that it would satisfy the public purpose doctrine as it would be a benefit to our community. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Popp, to pledge a \$5,000 donation in support of the construction of a skeet range as a cooperative effort utilizing Taconite Mining Effects revenue. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Sarah Carling, Megan Christianson and Beth Pierce were in attendance to provide information and a presentation for the project “Mississippi to the Iron Range Historical Mine Tour”. The purpose is to provide a no cost, informative, family friendly way to discover our area through an interactive user experience. It consists of towns all across the Iron Range and will help promote and market mine areas to attract new visitors in NE Minnesota. They are seeking written letters of support and monetary donations. There was discussion by the Council. Mayor Vreeland recommended bringing this to the East Range Joint Powers Board meeting taking place on January 26, 2021 to see what they and their community members are considering and further discussing at the next regular City Council meeting on February 8, 2021.

Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Popp, to provide a letter of support to the “Mississippi to the Iron Range Historical Mine Tour”. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. Department Reports:

Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West updated that the ice plant is working good again. The arena had several youth hockey games this past weekend and cleaning procedures went very well.

Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger shared new employee, Steve Peterson, started his position with public works. The team is working on cross training with snow removal and several indoor projects.

EMS Director Olmstead discussed being able to resume in-person staff training for the Fire/EMS Departments. The City Council had no issue as long as COVID-19 protocol is followed.

5. City Council Reports:

Mayor Vreeland provided updates on a \$250,000 grant received from IRRRB for the Water Tower project and stated that Minnesota Power is looking at placing a solar farm at Laskin Energy Park. He also shared that area snowmobile trails are being groomed.

6. The agreement between the City of Biwabik and City of Hoyt Lakes for Ambulance coverage was discussed. Phasing out has begun and should conclude as of June 1, 2021. Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve the Agreement between the City of Biwabik and the City of Hoyt Lakes for Ambulance Coverage beginning February 1, 2021 through June 1, 2021. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
7. EMS Director Olmstead and City Attorney Brunfelt will continue to finalize the Ambulance Tuition agreement and have ready for approval at the next regular City Councilor meeting February 8, 2021.
8. Councilor Popp provided information on the update to Ordinance 222 – An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing the Definition of Vehicle in Section 91.02 of the Hoyt Lakes City Code, to update the definition of “vehicle”. City Attorney Brunfelt advised that it is in the process of being posted/published for 10 days and no action can be taken until the next City Council meeting.
9. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Kramar, to open and resume regular City Hall office hours effective January 26, 2021. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
10. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve the request dated January 21, 2021 to North Star Lanes for a \$1,200 refund of 2020 Liquor License fee. Councilor Popp shared his concern on a 100% refund when businesses were not closed 100% last year. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: Popp. Motion carried.
11. Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve the hiring of Megan Williams as part time EMT pending the successful completion of the required City testing. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
12. Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West stated that Mesabi East Youth Hockey requested to install LiveBarn which would allow people to watch hockey games online due to not being able to attend live with COVID-19 restrictions. Councilor Peterson shared that this would be no cost to the City. City Attorney Brunfelt shared that he had reviewed the agreement and wondered if it would be more appropriate for Mesabi East Youth Hockey to make the agreement with LiveBarn. The City could amend their agreement with Mesabi East Youth Hockey giving them permission to have this installed. He stated this is a Council decision, but if the City proceeds with the agreement with LiveBarn he recommends changes to sections 7.9 and 7.10. Possible problems with the City keeping the agreement and having High School games at the arena were discussed. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Popp, to grant permission to Mesabi East Youth Hockey to enter into the agreement with LiveBarn. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
13. Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Kramar, to schedule a special City Council meeting on Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 5:00 pm to discuss City Administrator position, City Administrator wage and

possible out-sourcing of payroll functions. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

14. Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve the application of Wesley Boyle for the part time position of Recycle Center Attendant effective immediately, as he is a current part-time employee of the City. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
15. Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Zins, to accept with regret the resignation letter from Jane House from the Fire/EMS Department effective February 1, 2021 and to send a letter of appreciation for her 19+ years of service as a Firefighter/EMT. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
16. Moved by Councilor Kramar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Popp, Peterson, Kramar, Vreeland. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chris J. Vreeland
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Rebecca Burich
City Clerk Treasurer