

**Minutes of Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, June 22, 2020  
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, June 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Those present: Mayor Chris Vreeland. Councilors: David Zins, Brian Ceglar, Daniel Popp, Christine Peterson. City staff also present: City Attorney Mitchell Brunfelt, City Clerk-Treasurer Burich, Library Director Sowers, Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt, Ambulance Director Olmstead, Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger, Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West and Campground Managers Al and Patti Rhode.

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

Item 3 Regular City Council meeting minutes of May 26, 2020.

Item 7 Filing of correspondence:

Animal Control Officer – April/May 2020 reports;  
Hoyt Lakes Fire Department – May 6 and June 3, 2020 meeting minutes;  
Saint Louis County – Notification dated May 28, 2020 – no increase to solid waste disposal fee;  
Saint Louis County – Notification dated June 2, 2020 – Calcium Chloride Dust Control Program;  
Minnesota State Demographic Center: 2019 Population estimate is 1,944; household estimate is 881;  
Saint Louis County – Notification dated May 11, 2020 – proposed sale of state tax forfeited land;  
Minnesota Department of Health – Plan Review Approval – 2020 Street and Infrastructure;  
State of Minnesota – Secretary of State – letter dated June 11, 2020 regarding opening of polling places for the 2020 election;  
Hoyt Lakes Library – May 19, 2020 Board meeting minutes;  
Hoyt Lakes Blight report.

Item 10 Receipts, claims and payroll:

Receipts: \$2,433,472.22  
Claims: \$744,385.86  
Payroll Earnings: \$116,837.35  
Payroll Employer Costs: \$15,261.27  
Payroll Total: \$132,098.62  
Total Claims & Payroll: \$876,484.48  
Motion Carried.

3. Guests and Citizens Forum:

Tracy Lesnau and Steve Smith were present with questions regarding the water and sewer lines on recently purchased property on Leeds Road and seeking confirmation on what was considered the owner's responsibility versus City of Hoyt Lakes responsibility. After much discussion, Mayor Vreeland referred to Hoyt Lakes City Ordinance #52.03, which states, "All costs and expenses incident to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner."

4. Department Reports:

Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West stated the Golf Course is in great shape and has been busy.

Library Director Sowers shared the summer reading program and curbside pick-up is going great. Drive-in Bingo at the arena parking lot has been well attended. A grant is being pursued to buy a projection screen for drive-in movies and a possible trivia night is being planned. A grant was received to purchase WIFI hotspots; they have been tested, work well and will be available to the public within the next few weeks. Library staff will soon be trained on the new electronic sign that was installed at the arena.

Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger gave updates on the new electronic sign, ballfield and cemetery projects being worked on with the summer staff and vehicle/ambulance maintenance issues.

Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt stated that problems with the water tower by the Diversion Works were solved. Things are going well at both the Water and Wastewater plants with many maintenance projects being completed. The new utilities truck (2020 budget item) is ready at Lundgren's and will be picked up June 23, 2020.

Ambulance Director Olmstead stated there have been 69 ambulance runs to date for June and provided updates on staffing, ambulance repairs and stocking of PPE. She will be hosting the Tri-City Ambulance meeting on June 23, 2020.

5. City Council Reports:

Councilor Ceglar shared that some youth baseball programs are practicing with games to begin soon.

Councilor Peterson stated that the East Range Childcare Coalition is working with the City of Aurora on building a childcare center in Pine Grove Park. She also asked if a City-wide Garage Sale can be held this fall. It was determined that since these sales are on personal property, garage sales are permitted; however, because City buildings are still closed at this time, the arena and community building could not be rented.

6. Campground Liaison Popp shared sales statistics for June along with future reservations for July, August and September at Fisherman's Point. It was agreed upon by all councilors to continue with the policy of residing within the Mesabi East School District to be able to reserve a site for regular camping. This will be reviewed again at the next regular Council meeting on July 27, 2020. Placement of speed bumps and speeding on the campground road was also discussed. Mayor Vreeland will discuss with ERPD Chief Soular.

Cherie Grams provided a list of possible events the Water Carnival Committee would like to provide to keep the community involved, while complying with current COVID-19 regulations. The City Council felt the events would be possible. Committee member Grams will follow up with the City Council and COVID-19 response team when the proposed schedule has been determined.

City buildings will remain closed at this time. City outdoor shelters will be opened with signage to follow COVID-19 guidelines and that use is at your own risk.

There was lengthy discussion on the opening of the beach. Attorney Brunfelt stated it is the lifeguard's responsibility to watch the swimmers in the water, not police COVID-19 policies on the shore. A motion was made by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to open the beach subject to lifeguard hiring availability and docks being placed. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: Popp. Motion carried. Supervisor Snetsinger will reach out to Mark Goerdts for lifeguard scheduling and will also place the docks. An ad will be placed in the East Range Shopper prior to opening date.

Motion made by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to allow the men's softball league to commence in July with the conditions of compliance of the State's Executive Order and COVID 19 Preparedness Plan being in place. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Pickleball can be played on the outdoor tennis courts. The arena is still closed to the public.

Motion made by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Zins, to resume late fees on the monthly City utility bills effective for the August 2020 billing. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Vreeland, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to approve the COVID-19 City Preparedness Plan required by the State by June 29, 2020. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Northern Lights Music Festival was discussed at length. There is concern as to why this was not brought to the COVID-19 response team. Motion by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, that the City of Hoyt Lakes does not support Northern Lights Music Festival taking place this year due to COVID-19 concerns. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Blight Liaison Popp thanked Supervisor Snetsinger and his crew for the success of the curb clean-up. There was great response by our residents. Council Ceglar shared that numerous people have requested an additional East Mesabi Sanitation pick up day this fall. Councilor Popp will review if there are funds remaining in that budget after refuse bills are paid.
8. Fisherman's Point Campground was not selected for the MN Department of Natural Resources FY21 Outdoor Recreation Grant Program this year. Supervisor Snetsinger shared costs of the 2015 shower building. The Council's consensus was to halt the project at this time and re-apply for the grant next year.
9. Mayor Vreeland and Councilor Peterson met recently to review vacant property owned by the City of Hoyt Lakes. A listing was compiled along with properties currently available that are owned by Minnesota Power that may be of interest to the City. There was discussion on locations, survey needs and sending letters of interest to owners of homes with lots available behind them.
10. Motion made by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to schedule the 2019 City audit review meeting with Walker, Giroux & Hahne for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 4:00 pm, subject to Tom Kelly's availability. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.
11. No bids were received for the City Hall Renovation project. Supervisor Snetsinger will do further research and outreach to area contractors.
12. Emily Major, SEH, provided updates on the 2020 Street and Infrastructure Project.

Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve 2020 Street and Infrastructure Project Change Order #3 in the amount of -\$48,130 (reduction). Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to approve 2020 Street and Infrastructure Project Change Order #4 in the amount of \$4,725.53. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve Application for Payment #1 – Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$262,455.74. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

13. Motion by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to schedule 2021 Budget meetings for Monday, August 10; Tuesday, August 25; Tuesday, September 8, 2020; all at 5:00 pm. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.
14. Brian Gulden with Bolton & Menk presented the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Bid Evaluation and Contract Award information. Four bids were received ranging from \$9.8 million to \$11.7 million. The bids came in at much less than originally anticipated. Gridor Construction of Buffalo, MN was the lowest bidder. Bolton & Menk feels Gridor is experienced in this type of work and satisfied that their bid is accurate and they are ready to start the project. There was further discussion on grants and funding.  
  
Motion by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to accept and award the bid of Gridor Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project at \$9,898,700 (other bids: Rice Lake Construction Group \$10,092,800; Magney Construction Inc. \$10,867,600; Lakehead Constructors, Inc. \$11,692,500). Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.  
  
Motion by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Popp, to approve the proposed fee of \$755,000 to Bolton & Menk for approximately 18 months of construction observation and project management for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project, which represents approximately 5,600 hours of engineering, technician, and other technical staff time to complete the project. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Mayor Vreeland, to table the proposal for services for Consultant City Engineering of Bolton & Menk dated June 3, 2020. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

15. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Popp, to adopt Hoyt Lakes Resolution 2020-018 “A Resolution of Sponsorship for the Moose Trail” (full Resolution on file with the City Clerk-Treasurer). Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

16. Motion by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to table the request of Randall C. Fury dated May 9, 2020 for a plaque at Steven Chambers. Supervisor Snetsinger will do further research and report back to the Council.

17. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to adopt Hoyt Lakes Resolution 2020-019, “A Resolution of Adoption of the St. Louis County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan” (full Resolution on file with the City Clerk-Treasurer). Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Resolution adopted.

18. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to adjourn at 8:41 pm. Roll Call: Ayes: Vreeland, Zins, Popp, Ceglar, Peterson; Nays: None. Motion carried.

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Chris J. Vreeland  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Burich  
City Clerk-Treasurer