

**Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 9, 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, November 9, 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, Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger, Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West, Library Director Sowers, Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt, Fire Chief House, Ambulance Director Olmstead.
2. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, approving the following items from the consent agenda. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Item 7 Filing of correspondence:
SEH - October 23, 2020 Street & Infrastructure Improvement meeting minutes;
Bolton & Menk – Hoyt Lakes WWTF Improvements update October 29, 2020;
RAMS – September 24, 2020 meeting minutes;
Hoyt Lakes Fire Department – November 4, 2020 meeting minutes.

Item 9 E Approve the following 2021 Liquor License Applications:
JWay LLC, d.b.a. Haven Bar & Grill – On and Off Sale & Sunday;
John Sweeny, d.b.a. North Star Lanes – On and Off Sale & Sunday;
VFW Post 8144, d.b.a. Timothy Robinson Post – Club & Sunday,
Steven K. Ferris, d.b.a. Friendly Liquor Inc. – Off Sale;
MC of Hoyt Lakes Inc. d.b.a. Vaughn’s Restaurant – Wine and Intoxicating Malt Liquor to include Intoxicating Malt Liquor – Sunday.
Contingent on receiving all necessary information and approval by the East Range Police Chief.

Item 10 Receipts, claims and payroll:
Receipts: \$1,536,297.16
Claims: \$944,504.53
Payroll Earnings: \$55,288.12
Payroll Employer Costs: \$7,369.45
Payroll Total: \$62,657.57
Total Claims & Payroll: \$1,007,162.10
Motion Carried.

3. Guests and Citizens Forum:
None

4. Department Reports:
Library Director Sowers stated they are averaging 20 to 30 patrons per day. Updates were provided on take and make crafts and HOOPLA usage. There will be upcoming live story times for the 2nd grade class. WIFI Hotspots are getting high checkout usage.

Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger provided updates on staffing and the street project. He stated that MN Power will be coming in within the next few weeks to fix street lights and that barricades and cones will be removed. An update on the City Hall renovation project was also shared.

Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt gave updates on staffing and projects being worked on at both plants.

Ambulance Director Olmstead shared October had 118 ambulance calls. As of November 6, 2020, they were already at 30, up 14% from last year at this time. Updates were provided on staffing and COVID-19 concerns. Our area ICU’s are at high capacity.

Fire Chief House provided staffing updates and advised that future trainings will take place online. The annual children's Christmas party at the arena will not be held this year due to COVID-19. A Christmas parade is being discussed.

City Clerk-Treasurer Burich thanked the Election Judges and City Staff that helped with the elections. Things went very well and the public had positive comments on safety measures at the polls. She shared a reminder that Wednesday, November 11, 2020 is a City Holiday to honor Veterans Day.

5. City Council Reports:

Councilor Popp provided an update on non-compliant blight residents that were cleaned up by City Staff and/or contractors.

Mayor Vreeland shared the IRRRB grant of \$500,000 to complete the snowmobile/ATV trail from Gilbert to Hoyt Lakes was approved.

6. COVID-19:

Mayor Vreeland shared that Pickle Ball at the arena and the TOPS meetings at the Community Building have been suspended per the group's decision.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Peterson, to close the Community Building/Youth Center to the public effective immediately due to COVID-19. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Usage of the arena was discussed. All were in favor of keeping it open at this time with monitoring of future State and School decisions with regard to COVID-19 restrictions.

A request from North Star Lanes owner John Sweeny for a reduction in liquor license fees was reviewed. City Attorney Brunfelt stated because liquor licenses are written in City Code with very specific language refunds cannot be granted or fees reduced by Council decision. Ordinance 110.04 would need to be amended for 2021 in order to grant relief. City Clerk-Treasurer and Attorney Brunfelt will review this and have recommendations for the next regular City Council meeting.

Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Zins, to hold a Special City Council meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM to discuss emergency hiring of EMS personnel. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Councilor Peterson stated that due to concerns with COVID-19, Mesabi East Youth Hockey has decided to not open the Hockey Hut this season.

7. Brian Guldan, Bolton & Menk, was present to explain the application for payment #3 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project. Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to approve Contractor Application for Payment #3 WWTF Improvements to Gridor Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$898,592. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to schedule the City General Election Canvassing Board Meeting for Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 4:30 PM. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve 2020 audit services by Walker, Giroux & Hahne in an amount not to exceed \$24,750, with an additional \$4,000 if a federal single audit is required. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to write-off bad debt for 214 Cambridge Road in the amount of \$478.78. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

11. Due to COVID-19 there will not be a 2021 RAMS Annual Meeting. A 2021 Rams Board Nomination form was sent. Liaison Councilor Zins' term is not up this year. No action was taken.
12. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson to adjourn at 7:13 PM. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chris J. Vreeland
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Rebecca Burich
City Clerk-Treasurer