

**Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Monday, December 14, 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, December 14, 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, Deputy Clerk Snetsinger, Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger, Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt, Ambulance Director Olmstead, Library Director Sowers.
2. Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Ceglar, 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 November 23, 2020

Item 7 Filing of correspondence:
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Deer Harvest Report 15 as of 12/03/2020;
Animal Control Officer – October and November 2020 reports;
Hoyt Lakes Fire Department – December 2, 2020 meeting minutes;
Minnesota Department of Health – Water sample analysis dated November 30, 2020;
Mediacom – Letter dated November 18, 2020 outlining rate adjustments effective 12/22/2020;
AFSCME Council 65 – Letter dated November 19, 2020 outlining 2021 dues;
Blight – November report;
East Range Public Safety Board – October 12, 2020 meeting minutes;
League of MN Cities Insurance Trust – 2020 Dividend in the amount of \$12,484.

Item 10 Receipts, claims and payroll:
Claims: \$965,180.35
Payroll Earnings: \$54,146.68
Payroll Employer Costs: \$7,323.13
Payroll Total: \$61,469.81
Total Claims & Payroll: \$1,026,650.16

3. Guests and Citizens Forum:
None

4. Department Reports:
Library Director Sowers advised the Library will be closed the week of December 21 – 25, 2020, for the Holidays. The remote lockers will be delivered and set up soon. The Winter Reading Program will run January 4 through February 26, 2021. There will be a program with Chad Lewis on ZOOM Monday, January 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger provided updates on the City Hall renovations, activities at the Recycle Center and tree removal at the campground. The staff is currently completing required safety training.

Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt provided updates on the Water and Wastewater plants. His staff is also completing safety training.

Ambulance Director Olmstead stated they ended November with 85 runs. COVID-19 vaccinations for EMT staff will begin next week.

City Attorney Brunfelt discussed information on the amendment for City Ordinance 220 regarding liquor licenses. He also stated that he procured a way to address the possibility of reducing/refunding license fees paid in 2020 with an additional amendment.

Mayor Vreeland moved to item 8-D on the agenda. Local business owners John Sweeny of North Star Lanes and Toni Thuringer of Haven Bar and Grill requested relief of fees due to being shut down during the pandemic. John Sweeny also questioned possible relief on regular city utilities.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Peterson, for City Attorney Brunfelt to draft an additional amendment to City Ordinance 220 that can address relief of 2020 Liquor License fees. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried. City Attorney Brunfelt will work with Deputy Clerk Snetsinger to post a draft, as required for 10 days, for an amendment to Ordinance 220 to address 2020 Liquor License fees so the Council can act at the December 28, 2020 meeting.

Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to approve City of Hoyt Lakes Ordinance 220, An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 11.04(C) of the Hoyt Lakes City Code. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to waive all Liquor License fees for 2021. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. City Council Reports:

Councilor Popp met last week with St. Louis County regarding the Boase school. While there were no definitive answers, the property going back to the County due to delinquent taxes would be a long process, taking years. Further meetings are planned with both the County and IRRRB. No further action will be taken until these meetings have taken place.

Mayor Vreeland discussed the Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator position and concerns with in-person interviews and people quarantined due to COVID-19. He will work with Deputy Clerk Snetsinger to arrange ZOOM/phone-in interviews for all applicants. He also reminded the council of the Truth in Taxation meeting Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

6. Brian Guldan, Bolton & Menk, provided an update on the Wastewater Plant Project including site photos, concrete work and the filter building. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve Application for Payment #4, Gridor Construction, in the amount of \$248,567 dated December 7, 2020. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
7. Matt Reid of SEH provided an update on the 2020 Street and Infrastructure Project. There was brief discussion on delays in the drainage improvements. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Popp, to approve Application for Payment #2, Mesabi Bituminous, in the amount of \$4,119.25, 2019 Yard Drainage Improvements. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
8. Greg Cooper, TKDA and Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger provided information on floorplan alterations for the Campground Restroom Project. Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to approve the \$16,300 addition to design work for the updated floor plan. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
9. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve the Application for Payment #2, Lenci Enterprises, Inc., dated November 24, 2020 in the amount of \$11,310 for the City Hall Project. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
10. Ambulance Director Olmstead shared the Tri-City Ambulance meeting went well. The other entities are supportive of moving forward with the hiring recommendations and will provide additional funding, if necessary. The benefit package was discussed.

Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve the full-time Paramedic contract, wage and benefits as recommended by Ambulance Director Olmstead. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Zins, to advertise for three (3) full time paramedic positions. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve the internal posting from Tuesday, December 15 through Friday December 18, 2020 at noon and external advertising as needed. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve the following EMT only applicants: Stephanie Zimmer, Brennan Scott, Matthew Carlson, contingent on successful completion of the required city testing. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

11. Councilor Peterson discussed the building in the chainsaw park at the shopping center and a request from the Hoyt Lakes Chamber of Commerce to utilize it for a visitor center. The Garden Club is currently using it for storage. The Chamber is willing to provide a different storage location near the shopping center and will move the items occupying it. It was determined that the City has ownership and will do maintenance of the building. The Chamber will be responsible for daily monitoring. Councilor Peterson will reach out to Chamber and Garden Club to proceed.
12. Councilor Zins discussed the 2021 RAMS ballot. Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to white ballot the 2021 RAMS ballot. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
13. Moved by Councilor Peterson, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to table the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation Limited Use Permit, Snowmobile Trail and All-Terrain Vehicle Trail. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
14. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to accept the letter of Jereme Dahmen to return to active member of the Hoyt Lakes Fire and EMS Department effective December 14, 2020. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
15. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chris J. Vreeland
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Tammy Snetsinger
Deputy Clerk