

**Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
Monday, November 23, 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 23, 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, Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt, Ambulance Director Olmstead, Assistant Ambulance Director Hanson and Council Elect Deborah Kramar.

2. Moved by Councilor Popp, 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 9, 2020;
Special City Council meeting minutes of November 12 and 16, 2020.

Item 7 Filing of correspondence:
Northern Minnesota Dental – Contract Renewal January 1, 2021 – no change;
Hoyt Lakes Golf Course Rounds Played – 2010/2020 Comparison;
Roger’s Online – Memo dated November 9, 2020 regarding COVID-19 and remote work policy;
East Range Joint Powers Board – November report.

Item 10 Receipts, claims and payroll:
Claims: \$841,522.55
Payroll Earnings: \$55,071.09
Payroll Employer Costs: \$7,351.96
Payroll Total: \$62,423.05
Total Claims & Payroll: \$903,945.60
Motion Carried.

3. Guests and Citizens Forum:
None

4. Department Reports:
Recreation/Golf/Arena Supervisor West stated that the Arena has been closed due to Governor Order 20-99. The outdoor rink was discussed. Flooding has started, but completion is weather dependent. The warming shack will not be opened. A portable bathroom will be brought in, along with a City booth and benches. Proper signage will be posted on COVID-19 protocol.

Public Works Supervisor Snetsinger provided updates on the City Hall Renovation project and Public Works activity. He stated to use caution this next week at the Recycle Center as brush piles are being grinded and there is a concrete crushing crew doing work on site.

Public Utilities Supervisor Berndt shared updates on sludge hauling and Water Plant activity.

5. City Council Reports:
Councilor Popp attended the Minnesota Leagues Fall Virtual Conference last week and shared information on budgets and LGA.

Councilor Peterson recently spoke with Jill at AEOA. Hoyt Lakes volunteers are needed to deliver Meals-on-Wheels. It takes about 30 minutes and you can call Jill at 218-735-6899 to sign up. She also shared that some residents are organizing a Christmas home decorating contest. Information can be found on Facebook and there will be a drop off voting box at 219 Dorchester. Prizes are being awarded.

Mayor Vreeland shared information on an IRRRB Grant for the Water Tower that is being worked on with Mike Larson. There is an IRRRB meeting in December. He is also receiving calls from residents regarding increases on property taxes.

6. COVID-19:

St. Louis County has made inquiry with the city about a community COVID-19 testing partnership. A possible location could be our arena since it is currently closed. Supervisor Snetsinger explained that it could be set up as it was for the election to provide proper COVID-19 protocol. City Clerk-Treasurer Burich stated that the COVID team is okay with doing it. She also stated this is a tentative event and no dates have been determined.

First National Bank of Gilbert in Hoyt Lakes is currently closed. The night drop is being utilized and they hope to re-open soon.

Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to approve the final COVID-19 Cares Act Fund report. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Director Olmstead provided an update on the Cares Act monies remaining for the EMS department.

7. Councilor Popp inquired what type of liability the city would have if a portion of the storage area on County Road 666 was utilized for possible resident outdoor storage and/or blight items. Attorney Brunfelt stated that a release/waiver would need to be in place.

There was discussion on our blight ordinances and how watercraft and non-motorized vehicles apply. Attorney Brunfelt stated a code modification to the ordinance would be required and that he would research and provide further information at the next regular City Council meeting.

8. Supervisor Snetsinger shared that there are thirteen applicants for the full-time Equipment Operator position. Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Peterson, to form a hiring committee of Supervisor Snetsinger, Councilor Ceglar and Mayor Vreeland to review applications and schedule interviews. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Ambulance Director Olmstead presented a request for additional full-time paramedic staff for the Ambulance Department with two options. Option one would hire two paramedics and option two would hire three. There was lengthy discussion on scheduling, budgeting and the need to further discuss this with the Tri-City Ambulance members.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Zins, to authorize Director Olmstead to further research wages/benefits/budgets and to schedule a Tri-City meeting in early December prior to any hiring. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Popp, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve the full-time Paramedic job description. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Councilor Zins, supported by Councilor Popp, to approve the part-time Ambulance Attendant/Driver job description with the wage set for driving at one half of the EMT pay rate on the current transfer pay schedule. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Attorney Brunfelt stated that a ordinance code amendment must be posted for 10 days in regard to the changes to Liquor License Ordinance 110.04 and then approved at the next City Council meeting. The proposed language will be structured to give the City Council more discretion for waiving or lowering of fees for 2021. Attorney Brunfelt informed that the changes would only apply to future requests and could not provide relief for fees already paid in 2020.

11. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Zins, to schedule a special City Council meeting with East Range Joint Powers Board (Northspan), City of Aurora, Biwabik and Town of White on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4:00 pm for a strategic directions' consensus workshop (virtual meeting). Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

12. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to approve the quote of AK Plumbing LLC dated October 30, 2020 in the amount of \$8,851.70 (budget item) to replace gas water heater at the arena. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.
13. Moved by Mayor Vreeland, supported by Councilor Ceglar, to approve application for Payment No. 6, Mesabi Bituminous, in the amount of \$94,479.95 for the 2020 Street and Infrastructure Improvements Project. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried. Engineer Matt Reid of SEH provided information on what remains to be done next spring.
14. Moved by Councilor Ceglar, supported by Councilor Peterson, to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Roll Call: Ayes: Zins, Ceglar, Popp, Peterson, Vreeland; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chris J. Vreeland
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Rebecca Burich
City Clerk-Treasurer