

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Auringer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Council Members present: Garrett Steinberg, Beth Rohrich, Anthony White, John Whittington, and Mayor Tim Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Chief John Kopp, Public Works Director Brian Goettl, Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Mike Kennedy, Insurance Agent and Dan Ruschmeyer, Fire Chief were not able to be in attendance tonight, both items under Presentations will be added to the November agenda.
- Administrator Bromeland requested to add authorization to work with a real estate attorney and staffing updates to New Business.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the September 13, 2021, City Council meeting minutes. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the consent agenda.

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report	Police Report
Fire Report	Public Works Report	Building & Zoning Permits
Gambling Report	Approve Hiring Amy Crary	Approve PERA for Amy Crary
Resignation of Alan Kliest, DTR		
- The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING

- None

PRESENTATIONS

1. Scott McConkey, Southern MN Liaison with Office of Traffic Safety: TZD Grant
 - Mr. McConkey stated he is proud of the Eagle Lake Police Department and their dedication to public safety.
 - One year ago, most traffic fatalities stemmed from distracted driving, elderly drivers and driving under the influence.
 - In 2021, the number of year-to date traffic fatalities are the highest they have been in over five years. Through September 26th, there were 356 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is a 22% increase over last year at this time and a 34% increase over this time in 2019.
 - Speed continues to be the largest contributing factor in fatal traffic crashes. Currently there have been 117 speed-related deaths, this is a 35% increase from this time last year and a 102% increase from this time in 2019. It is not uncommon for vehicle speeds to reach 100+ miles per hour.

- Towards Zero Death (TZD) campaigns are geared towards driver accountability and education in an attempt to change the culture.
 - A new grant has been awarded which covers the cost of officers working TZD shifts.
 - Discussion included that officer need to hold specific certifications to work TZD shifts, that these shifts can focus on both the highway and within a community as long as there is visibility and creates a positive safety impact. These campaigns are not to take away from community coverage and should only be run as staffing levels allow.
 - Community education would help to inform residents as to why there are Eagle Lake officers patrolling the highway and what TZD is about.
2. Mark Venem, Eagle Lake Area Lions Club: Placement of Lions Club Sign
- Mr. Venem presented the logo design and template for sign size. The circular sign would be 30 inches in diameter for the logo with a smaller rectangular sign for the meeting dates.
 - Discussion included that tje location of these signs would be placed next to the three Welcome to Eagle Lake signs on a separate pole.
 - Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the sign design and placement. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Amendments to Personnel Policy

- The proposed amendment to the City's Personnel Policy relates to clothing allowance. Absent is language addressing specific dollar amounts allocated for clothing allowance for various departments. The purpose of the amendment is to have a comprehensive list of clothing allowance amounts by department for ease of reference. Moving forward the policy can be updated as needed for changes to specific dollar amounts allowed for each department.
- In 2018 a clothing allowance was set for administrative employees and a safety boot policy for the public works department. The police department also has a clothing allowance that has been in place for some time, but not reflected in the policy.
- In addition to the clothing allowance section of the policy, an amendment is needed to update the purchasing policy following the finding in the 2020 audit in which it was noted that two signatures are required on all disbursements regardless of expenditure amount. The current policy read that two signatures are required for expenditures more than \$5,000.
- Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve amendments to the personnel policy. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

2. Authorization to Work with Real Estate Attorney

- With the approval of the offer received for the City-owned lots at 301 and 305 Parkway Avenue, some legal work is needed to prepare a deed and affidavit for the city. In the past, the City has utilized Chuck Peterson and Abbie Olson with Maschka Riedy Ries and Frenz law firm. Mr. Peterson has retired, and Ms. Olson is moving to a different firm. Per an inquiry to Ms. Olson, she is able to complete this work for the City but would be doing so at the firm of Fredrickson and Byron, P.A. in Mankato. It is anticipated that the total cost for the work will be around \$250.00
- Council Member Whittington moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to authorize working with Abbie Olson of Frederickson and Byron, P.A. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

3. Seasonal Employee Update

- Teddy Ferguson was recently authorized for hire as a seasonal employee for the public works department. Mr. Ferguson did not complete all the necessary pre-employment paperwork and notified City Hall today that he will be unable to work for the City of Eagle Lake this fall but appreciated the opportunity.
- Brian Goettl, Public Works Director, stated the department is short staffed currently with the part-time and one seasonal employee off due to medical reasons. This leaves Andrew Hartman, Mike Nicklay, Brian Goettl and Larry Kuster available.
- Discussion included the desire to look into another seasonal staff person to assist with leaf collection. Mr. Goettl stated he was approached by a resident who would be interested in assisting with leaf collection.
- The new leaf vac has been received but there is work needed to the equipment. A technician will come to work on the equipment. The work should be covered under the warranty.

- With the city having two leaf collection systems this year, it is uncertain if the old equipment will be needed next year. If not, it is anticipated it could be sold after this year. This equipment retains its value well.

OTHER

1. Fire Department Open House: Sunday, October 3rd from 1:00p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Administrator Bromeland stated the fire department members did a good job with the open house event this past weekend.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Fall leaf collection will begin the week of October 11th. Full schedule is in the newsletter.
2. Fall Cleanup at Lake Eagle Park will be held Saturday, October 16 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Council discussion included the possibility of a different location in the future with better in and out vehicle access.
3. Timeline for Strategic Economic Development Plan and Initiative. Administrative Bromeland met with Region Nine staff. Work on this will begin in January of 2022.
4. The upcoming GMG meeting will be held November 9, 2021. Borg Homes will be recognized at the meeting. Any council members wishing to attend should contact Jennifer Bromeland or Kerry Rausch to be registered.
5. The One Million Cups Event will be in Eagle Lake on November 17, 2021. Dasch Salon and Hometown Fitness will be participating.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

- Mayor Auringer asked Council and staff to consider alternate ways for sending utility bills to residents other than the United States Postal Service.
- Any members of the public who listened to tonight's meeting online are encouraged to contact City Hall to let staff know if the new microphones being tested by Mayor Auringer and Council Member Steinberg improved the audio portion of the live stream.

ADJOURNMENT

- Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member White, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Whittington, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

Tim Auringer, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk