

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 1, 2022**

**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, and Mayor Tim Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Police Chief John Kopp, Public Works Director Brian Goettl, Fire Chief Vern Simpson, and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- All Seasons Arena Agreement was added to New Business.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the July 11, 2022 City Council meeting minutes. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report	Police Report
Fire Report	Public Works Report	Building & Zoning Permits
Gambling Report		
- The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Cody Christianson with Bolton and Menk: MAPO Pedestrian Connectivity Study
  - Mr. Christianson stated there was an open house on July 26th and that Bolton and Menk is working with MAPO, Eagle Lake and Blue Earth County on a bike and pedestrian connectivity study for a crossing for 211th Street and Thomas Drive. At the open house four options were presented. Option 1 included a sidewalk on the west side of Agency Street with a crossing at 211<sup>th</sup> and urbanizing the west side of Agency Street with curb and gutter. Consideration for the wetlands in this area need to be considered. Option 2 included a sidewalk on the east side, urbanizing the east side with curb and gutter. Some draining concerns were noted on this side with the existing ditch and two openings into the mobile home park. Option 3 would include a shared use path which would keep the rural function of the roadway with just the paved shoulder and the trail constructed down the slope on the east side. Option 4 would include a shared use path outside of the county road right of way, to be placed on the north side of the mobile home park, then going

east between the mobile home park and the townhomes. This option would require right of way acquisitions.

- Comments heard at the open house included the need for a larger sidewalk/trail plan for the city and the possible need for traffic control at the intersection of Agency and Thomas Drive. Details for each option will be looked into while additional feedback is accepted.
- Input from the public will be taken for the next three weeks and information can be located on the MAPO website.
- Discussion included if information could be provided at the Music on Parkway event on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 2. John Graupman with Bolton and Menk: Water Tower Rehab and SCADA System

- Brian Sarff with Bolton and Menk filled in for Mr. Graupman stating the current SCADA system is in need of upgrades. This is a system which provides communication between the water tower and lift stations and provides staff with alerts. The next step in this process would be to engage an electrical engineer for biddable plans and to create contract documents. The goal would be to consider bids at the October City Council meeting. If approved, it would take one year for full implementation and to be up and running. This is a communication system and allows staff to control infrastructure remotely.
- Discussion included the needs for this system to be expandable with future growth of the City, with the need for a water filtration system and a second water tower. Mr. Sarff stated he will verify with Mr. Graupman that this system would be expandable.
- Administrator Bromeland contacted the city's auditor who indicated this project could be used with America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds under the clean water and drinking water program. MN PFA's revolving loan funds could also be used for this project. The City has received \$337,354.26 in ARPA funds which need to be expended by December 31, 2024.
- City staff as begun obtaining pricing for a SCADA system.
- Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to direct Bolton and Menk to prepare specifications and bid documents for the SCADA system. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
- Discussion included asking if the SCADA system and the water tower rehab project could be combined. It was recommended that these projects be kept separate due to separate contracts.
- Brian Sarff explained that on a biannual basis the city receives a report on the water tower and that the last report indicated the need for the tower to be recoated. The life expectancy of recoating is 20 years and the cost to recoat the interior and exterior is between \$415,000 - \$500,000.
- Administrator Bromeland explained that KLM did the last inspection in 2021 and that the City has a contract with them for inspecting and cleaning the water tower.
- Public Works Director Brian Goettl explained that there are a few interior sections which need to be cleaned and repaired.
- If the Council chooses to proceed, it was recommended that bid documents and specifications are needed and it was recommended that it go out to bid in December 2022 or January 2023. Bolton and Menk needs to climb the tower to do an inspection in the next month or so and review KLM's report. The current recommendation is based off KLM's report. It is anticipated this project could take place in 2023.
- Discussion included that this project does include painting of the exterior of the water tower and that it is an opportunity to select new colors and design.
- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, authorizing Bolton and Menk to inspect the water tower and to obtain bids. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **1. EAW for Fox Meadows**

- Administrator Bromeland stated that Travis Fristed and Troy Schrom are not able to be at tonight's meeting but that any public comments or questions received will be relayed onto them. She also explained that a public hearing is not required but is an option to gather comments.
- Council discussion included that the EAW has been submitted to the EQB. Agencies are reviewing the EAW and looking at what it means for the community. The TIF agreement can be amended for correct construction dates.
- Administrator Bromeland stated she has spoken with Bolton and Menk relating to current city utilities and has confirmed that the existing utilities have the capacity to serve this project.
- The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments being offered.
- Troy Schrom requested a special council meeting after the 30-day public comment period closes. Council set a special meeting for Tuesday, August 30th at 6:00 p.m.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. South Agency Street Project – Tree Opinions Obtained for 212 S. Agency Street**

- Administrator Bromeland explained that discussion took place at the July 11<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting about a tree at 212 S. Agency Street and whether it was damaged before or during the Agency Street (CSAH 27) project. The consensus at that time was for Brian Sarff with Bolton and Menk to obtain an opinion from a tree expert. Since that time, Mr. Sarff has obtained two opinions. One from Dan Donayre, a Natural Resource Project Manager with Bolton and Menk, and one from Seumnick's Final Cut Tree Service, LLC. Both indicated that based on the pictures of the tree prior to construction, there was already early stages of die back or some type of disease present.
- Tom Hager, 212 S. Agency, stated it is his hope that he and the City could share in the cost of the tree removal. He stated he has received two other bids of \$870 and \$900. This would remove the tree at ground level, but not remove the roots. Mr. Hager also asked if anyone is certain if this tree is on his property, with Brian Sarff stating it is his belief that the tree is outside of the alley right of way by 2-4 feet.
- Council discussion included the need to determine liability, with Mayor Auringer stating he does not see liability for the city.
- Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to pay one half of the \$875 bid. The motion carried with Council Members Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor. Council Member Steinberg voted in opposition.

### **2. Advance Resignation Notice Program**

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the purpose of the proposed program is to improve the efficiency and stability of the City's workforce by encouraging employees to give advance notice of their intent to resign. This allows for the process of replacing an employee who is leaving the city to begin as soon as possible after notice is received and will hopefully reduce the time that the position remains unfilled. Included in the policy is a one-time payment for advance notice. The payment is made after the employment termination date and is subject to taxation and required deductions.
- Discussion included that the policy before council is a sample proposal from the League of MN Cities and that employees would have this as an option, it is not required.

- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the Advance Resignation Notice Program as presented. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
3. Compensation of Mayor and Council
- Administrator Bromeland explained that the last increase to mayor and city council compensation was in 2013 to \$325 per month for mayor and \$225 per month for city council. If there is interest in increasing the compensation for mayor and city council, a public hearing could be set for the September 12th City Council meeting to amend Section 2.020 of City Code. No salary change shall take effect until after the next regular city election. An ordinance changing council salaries should specify the date when the changes will take effect.
  - Discussion included Mayor Auringer stating the current salaries seem to be in line with other communities, Council Member Rohrich stating she has no strong opinion on this, Council Member White stating he is fine with the current salaries and Council Member Steinberg stating that with inflation he feels staff and council members should receive a cost-of-living adjustment.
  - Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to set a public hearing for September 12th to consider mayor and council member salaries. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
4. Sidewalk and Concrete Curb Street Repair
- Public Works Director Brian Goettl stated he requested three bids for sidewalk and curb repairs and only received one. There are capital outlay funds for sidewalk repairs and the curb repairs would be paid out of general street repairs.
  - Discussion included that some of the sidewalk repair will include installation of ADA pads.
  - Council asked if in the future such bids could be received earlier.
  - Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the bid from Clint Adams in the amount of \$30,174 for sidewalk and curb repairs. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
5. All Seasons Arena (ASA)
- Administrator Bromeland explained that a letter has been received from the city's attorney who reviewed documents regarding the management of All Seasons Arena (ASA) and responded with the following. The working arrangement has been in place in some fashion since 1979. The current All Season Arena Board by-laws as amended are dated July 31, 2015 and the City of Eagle Lake was not a party to the by-laws. The operating service agreement is dated July 21, 2021 (Mankato) to January 10, 2022 (Skyline, North Mankato) was signed on July 21, 2021. The agreement now lists Eagle Lake as an owner but there is no signed joint powers agreement. The agreement provides that the City of Mankato will operate the facility utilizing the payment of \$40,000 by all of the owners. Eagle Lake agreed to pay 4.524% of this amount for the years of 2021, 2022, 2023. It is not clear that there is any working agreement that is currently in effect for any party, but there certainly is no agreement in place for Eagle Lake. If Eagle Lake is to continue in this entity a new joint powers agreement is required. If the City determines this is no longer in the best interest of the City to participate in this agreement, then the City will need to give notice as there is no joint powers agreement that the city is part of. Eagle Lake is responsible for the payments on the Operating Service Agreement but that ends in 2023.
  - Council Member White stated the ASA Board has now determined there are more improvements needed and no clear understanding of the costs. He expressed his desire to continue on with the ASA operations portion but does not agree with paying for the upgrades. The current cost for improvements is between \$5-\$6 million and Eagle Lake's portion would be 4.524% of this.

- Both Administrator Bromeland and Council Member White expressed that it would be difficult to justify this expense to taxpayers when other communities don't pay and can use the facilities. There are also questions that need to be answered, such as who owns the building.
- Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to deny paying 4.52% of upgrade to All Season Arena, but to continue with operational costs.
- Council Member White amended his original motion, seconded by Council Member Steinberg to read, to deny paying 4.52% of upgrades to All Season Arena, but to continue with operational costs if it is financially feasible. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

## **OTHER**

- None

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. Budget Work Session
  - The work session is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm. Department heads are gathering information.
2. Recap of CGMC Summer Conference and Highlights
  - CGMC is advocating for LGA, PFA funding, environmental issues and childcare. The Coalition is requesting Governor Waltz to call for a special session and cities were asked for letters of support. Topics covered included PTSD liability claims, childcare, and employment issues.
3. National Night Out
  - National Night Out will be held at 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church.
4. Music on Parkway
  - The final event will be held August 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
5. Storm Drain Stenciling Project
  - As part of MS\$ public outreach, the City will coordinate public education and stenciling storm drains in a portion of the community. The City will cover costs of paint and stencils. The Lions Club and Girl Scouts have been contacted as a possible community service project.
6. Congressionally Directed Spending
  - An email was received informing the City our request for congressionally directed spending was not approved and that the process is extremely competitive. Consideration with the State is still a possibility.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

1. Upon request from Mayor Auringer, Chief Kopp provided an update on 317 LeRay Avenue. The Blue Earth County attorney has indicated this would be a civil matter, not a criminal matter. Council could consider abatement or civil proceedings. Formal complaints against this property have been received. Mayor Auringer stated action needs to be taken. Chief Kopp will prepare reports for the city attorney for his review.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

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Tim Auringer, Mayor

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Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk