

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
JULY 1, 2019
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL

- Council Members present: John Ries, Dennis Terrell, Ryan Short, Garrett Steinberg, and Mayor Tim Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Police Chief John Kopp, Public Works Director Brian Goettl, and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mary Peterson, 60701 Millie Lane-stated the motorsports development is not consistent with the city's website which states Eagle Lake is a safe, quiet community and that she has concerns about the disturbance of wetlands and the noise.
- Nicole Davros, 101 Valley Lane – stated Eagle Lake has a small-town feel, there is a need to balance economics with ecological resources and green space. She also recommended the council read the book *Better, Not Bigger*, and the city should look at developing a strategic plan.
- Christine Black-Hughes,400 Thomas Drive – would like more information on the motorsports development. She likes the quietness of the community and has concerns about the noise. She asked if this project would be a conflict of interest for any of the council members and if so, those people need to recuse themselves from discussion and voting. She would also like to see less closed city council meetings.
- Scott Berg, 173 Creekside Drive – stated he has concerns if council members have a financial interest in the motorsports project and the noise of this project. He also asked about Plan B for the racetrack area and why the city is annexing LeRay Township property.
- Mike Guentzel, 60374 224th Lane, Madison Lake – lives in the country because he wants to live in the country and has noise concerns, concerns about the area wildlife and concerns about conflict of interest. He also stated he has not received any notices about this project. He also stated the highway does not have an adequate excelleration lane and that the Eagle Lake police will be responsible for addressing noise complaints.
- Erin Guentzel, 60374 224th Lane, Madison Lake – stated she has received inconsistent answers on who approached whom regarding the motorsports project, asked what type of events will be held, about future expansion and thanked Administrator Bromeland for the fact check email.
- Brandon Olson, 213 LeRay Avenue – stated there are a lot of rumor and people need to get correct information. He also stated this is a tremendous opportunity for Eagle Lake.
- Daryl Guentzel, 22083 604 Avenue – stated he believes residents live in Eagle Lake to be set back from the busyness and that up to 1,000 participants would increase the busyness. He also stated concerns with traffic on a roadway that has farm equipment activity.
- Beth Rohrich, 404 Thomas Drive, stated she has reviewed meeting minutes and is getting misinformation and that the city needs to do a better job of communicating. She voiced concerns with the speed that the city purchased a lot at the price of \$44,000.
- Matt Bilek, 177 Creekside Drive – asked if the city has any permits to prevent noise from getting to loud, if this is the best decision, and can the motorsports developer change the use once the park is installed. He would like to see appropriate controls put in place for possible future changes for this development.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell, to approve the agenda. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the June 3, 2019 City Council minutes. The motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Mayor Auringer pointed out the consent agenda included a resolutions accepting Dillon Brashear's resignation from the police department and Beth Rohrich being appointed to the Park Board.
- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to approve the consent agenda.

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report	Police Report
Fire Report	Public Works Report	Building/Zoning Permits
Resolution 2019-17 Appointing Beth Rohrich to the Park Board		
Resolution 2019-18 Accepting the Resignation of Dillon Brashear from the police department		
- Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

PRESENTATION

1. 2018 Audit Presentation – Jamie Faye with Eide Bailly
 - Ms. Faye presented the audit report and stated it was a clean audit, and that the audit report was submitted to the state on time.
2. JOYRIDE Program – Drew Campbell with Towards Zero Death
 - Mr. Campbell explained the Towards Zero Death (TZD) program's goal is to reduce serious injuries and deaths on roadways through engineering, enforcement, education/awareness, and the EMS system.
 - Blue Earth and Nicollet County Safe Roads Coalition looks at traffic and works towards zero deaths through the JOYRIDE Program (sober cabs) to be available to communities for special community events, the night before Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, and New Year's Eve providing rides within a ten mile radius and asked the City Council to consider making a donation to this project.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to contribute \$1,000 in 2019 for the JOYRIDE program.
 - Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planning Commission Recommendation 401 LeRay Avenue-Re-zoning Request
 - A public hearing was held on June 17, 2019 at the Planning Commission meeting for the purpose of considering a re-zoning application from the property owner of 401 LeRay Avenue. Notice of the public hearing was published in the City's official newspaper (Mankato Free Press) and mailed to all property owners within 350 feet of the property at 401 LeRay Avenue. Not written comments were received in advance of the hearing, but three property owners spoke at the public hearing in opposition to the re-zoning request.
 - The Planning Commission has recommended to City Council the denial of the rezoning request with the following findings of facts: (1) The request was not consistent with the city's land use plan; (2) Spot zoning would impact surrounding properties, and (3) The request does not meet elements of "practical difficulties."

- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the rezoning request. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
2. EDA Recommendation Regarding Little Sprouts Forgivable Loan Application
- Little Sprouts Daycare and Pre-School Center has submitted a Blue Earth County Childcare Forgivable Loan Program Application in the amount of \$16,142.62. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) has reviewed the application and consulted with Bryan Stading with Rural Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation (RCEF) related to Little Sprouts' financials required as part of the application review process.
 - The EDA recommended the forgivable loan application totaling \$19,142.62 be approved contingent upon Little Sprouts working with RCEF at no charge to ensure processing of quarterly reports to be submitted to RCEF and the City for review.
 - If approved the loan application will go before the Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners for approval.
 - Currently \$12,400 of the issued \$35,000 of forgivable loan funds have been awarded, leaving \$3,457.38 available if Little Sprouts' loan is approved. There are no pending loan requests at this time.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to approve Little Sprout's loan applications with the EDA's recommendations. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
3. Letter from LeRay Township and Terms of Orderly Annexation Agreement
- LeRay Township has submitted a response to two sets of draft orderly annexation agreements that they received from the City of Eagle Lake. One draft covers the entire township and the other draft focuses on the three parcels needed for the Motorsports project.
 - LeRay Township has proposed that the City reimburse the township 100% of the taxes currently paid to the township for the three parcels for the first ten years and then at a sliding scale for years 11-20. The proposed taxes for 20 years would be \$53,010.41.
 - The next step would be for the City to provide notice of intent to include the three properties in the orderly annexation area by publishing in the Mankato Free Press.
 - LeRay Township would like the city to take over 216th Street.
 - Mayor Auringer invited Brad Bass to updated information on the Motorsports project stating there will never be 1,000 cars and that there will only be 12-17 cars on the track at a given time. Bleachers will not be installed, and this will not be a racetrack. Car clubs may rent the track at times, there could be corporate events, there will be a driving school and law enforcement POST Board training, there will not be sirens outside of vehicles for POST Board training. This will not be used as a motorcycle track. The track will be open to the public at specified times.
 - Condos are a big part of the design and will be purchased. They will handle the own security. His request is for annexation the parcels and for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). There will be a food bar service offered to members. Tire sales and service will be available only to members as well as a Sports Shop.
 - The first phase is a three-mile road course, a lunch counter and 72 condos, of which approximately 40 have been spoken for. Plans have been modified to include berms on the north and east side of the site. The course would be used 6-7 months a year. Phase two would include 50 more condo units to the north by the county road. They are planning an aesthetically pleasing design.
 - There is a possibility of a town square, but they would need to work with MNDOT to ensure traffic and safety is taken into consideration. The Town Square idea was presented as an effort to incorporate input from residents who attended the open house.
 - Mr. Bass also stated they are not associated with the Dundas facility.
 - Council discussion included the desire to get more information on this project to residents. They also asked Mr. Bass if he would be willing to include in the developer's agreement that they will not be adding bleachers and the limiting of the activities at the site. Mr. Bass stated we would absolutely be willing to incorporate this language into a developer's agreement. He also indicated that if the property is ever sold that they could include similar language to ensure continuity of use.
 - Mayor Auringer called the question.
 - Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to provide notice of intent to include the three properties in the orderly annexation area and to publish in the Mankato Free Press.

The motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

4. Memorandum of Understanding with Mankato Area Public Schools Community Education and Recreation
 - The city has partnered with Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) and Community Education and Recreation (CER) to bring another outdoor movie event to Eagle Lake in September in addition to the Rec on the GO! Program to children ages 4 years old through grade 5. The purpose of the Memo of Understanding is to outline roles and responsibilities for both MADP CER and the City of Eagle Lake. One of the City's roles is to appoint one (1) member from the elected body to serve on the MAPS CER Advisory Council, the next meeting being held in September.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, authorizing Administrator Bromeland to sign the memo of understanding with MAPS CER. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
5. Mankato/ North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) 2020 Unified Work Program (UPWP) Project Application
 - Administrator Bromeland was contacted by Landon Bode with Mankato Transit department who is applying for funding for transit services. Currently services are provided to Eagle Lake at no cost and the city attends monthly meetings.
 - Administrator Bromeland met with Mr. Bode and two others today and they identified the need for signage and benches for transit locations near Uncle Alberts Café and Regency Mobile Home Park.
 - Mayor Auringer moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to move forward with MAPO 2020. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
6. Plans for Replacement of Cracked Sidewalk along Creekside Drive
 - City staff received a call from a resident asking if there were plans to replace the sidewalk as part of the sidewalks being replaced in 2019. Due to the 2019 work already completed, the sidewalk could be included in the list of sidewalks to be addressed in 2020.
 - Per the public works department, the sidewalk was damaged in 2016 by the developer, but there does not appear to be any record of the developer being notified of the need to replace the cracked sidewalk panels.
 - This matter is presented to Council to evaluate and determine whether since some time has passed since the damage occurred and because the current owner of the property did not cause the damage, that the City should just add the sidewalk to the scope of work for 2020.
 - Council directed staff to contact the contractor to see when they would be available to replace this section of sidewalk.
7. Next Steps for Watermain Looping Project
 - Brian Sarff with Bolton and Menk provided an update for the watermain looping project.
 - The design plans are substantially completed and is coming before Council to request going out for bids. If approved all bids would come before the Council for approval.
 - Bids would include alternates due to issues obtaining easements and waiting to hear from the railroad company on the permitting process.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to authorize going out for bids for the watermain looping project. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

OTHER

1. Mankato Motorsports Park – Environmental Review Status Update and Request for Revisions to Zoning Ordinance to Accommodate Track Use
 - Administrator Bromeland shared an update she received from Matt Lassonde with Bolton and Menk stating that the developer is asking the City of Eagle Lake to consider revisions to the zoning ordinance to incorporate the Mankato Motorsports park development as a conditional use. Revisions to the zoning ordinance now would ensure the property is able to be appropriately zoned upon annexation to accommodate the develop. This would assist with timely construction of the Mankato Motorsports Park keeping in line with the developer's timeline.
 - The developer is asking the city to consider assuming ownership of Township Road 216th Street in preparation for annexation of the proposed Mankato Motorsports Park property. LeRay Township expressed concern regarding this roadway segment suggesting it has not been discussed. The

developer believes access to the development from this road would be ideal. This road may also serve as an avenue for extending city utilities to the development as well.

- The phase one archaeological survey should be complete the first week of July and wetland delineation findings has been submitted.
 - The noise study is anticipated to begin in early July.
 - The traffic Impact study should start in July as well.
2. Review Letter from City Attorney and LMC Information Memo about Official Conflict of Interest in Response to Questions Fielded about Conflict of Interest
- Administrator Bromeland explained that staff has been contacted by multiple residents asking questions about the relationship between the sale of the land for the proposed Motorsports Park and the realtors on the City Council. Staff is asking for council discussion so that staff can respond appropriately when such inquiries are received.
 - A memo on conflict of interest from the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) was included the in the council packet. City Attorney, Chris Kennedy, submitted a letter stating if an elected official is not receiving direct compensation as a result of a decision(s) made by the City Council relative to the proposed motorsports project, there does not appear to be a conflict.
 - Council Member Ries stated he is not receiving any compensation.
3. Police Department Coverage and Scheduling Challenges
- Administrator Bromeland and Chief Kopp have discussed the scheduling challenges, the amount of overtime that has been incurred in 2019, and safety concerns for officers and are asking for Council input on how to proceed.
 - Options presented were looking at coverage, staffing levels, if there is a need to hire an addition full-time officer.
 - Current struggles include the lack of qualified candidates when hiring for part-time positions, the number of job openings for full-time openings that it is hard to draw part-time candidates.
 - Current coverage levels were discussed, and concern was stated that when officers are on-call they tend not to sleep well knowing they may be called out at any time.
 - Members of the audience provided the following input: the need for coverage as Eagle Lake is a growing community, they would like to see another full-time officer, and concerns with recent police events not wanting to lessen the amount of coverage and that they have seen police officers sleeping in the car.
 - Mayor Auringer stated that input from the audience indicates residents do not want to see a reduction in coverage and directed staff to bring options and costs to the upcoming budget planning process.
 - Council indicated they would like more information on how the department could be more efficient with coverage and possible modifications that could be made. If there are officer safety concerns with working too many hours mandatory overtime for all officers could be required.
4. Eagle Scout Project Request
- Administrator Bromeland has received a request from a Boy Scout looking for an Eagle Scout project and asked if there is a possible project in the proposed Eagle Heights park.
 - Council was asked to share any ideas for such projects.
5. Manhole Settling
- Joel Radel, 237 Creekside Drive, brought to the Council's attending the manhole that is settling on Creekside Drive and asked if this could be looked into.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

1. Recap of Recent Rec on the GO! Evening in the Park Event
 - The event was a success. Food was planned for 100 people and it was all used.
2. Preview of 2020 Budget Process Timeline
 - Administrator Bromeland will begin working with department heads.
3. Mankato Transit Bus Stop Locations and Signage in Eagle Lake
 - Discussed in item 5 under New Business.
4. Stop Sign for Pedestrian Crossing at the County Rd 17 and 598th Roundabout
 - A request for "stop for pedestrians" signage has been received.
 - Cost of signage would be \$40 per sign.
 - Council authorized staff to purchase necessary signage.

5. Tator Days Parade

- Council was asked to let staff know if they are able to ride in the Tator Days parade which will be July 20 2019.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Short asked that staff contact the railroad company requesting repairs be made to the railroad crossing located at the east end of Parkway Avenue and Highway 14, stating this crossing is very rough.
2. Council Member Ries asked that the school district be contacted asking that they share in the cost of tennis court repairs since the school uses the courts.
3. Council Member Steinberg stated he attended the most recent All Seasons Arena (ASA) Joint Powers meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

Tim Auringer, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk