

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
MARCH 2, 2020  
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 Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Police Chief John Kopp, Public Works Director Brian Goettl, and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Administrator Bromeland reviewed the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) process and stated the EAW is a source of information for decision makers, it is not a source for approval or denial of the project. Once the public comment period ends the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) will determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed. All comments on the EAW need to be submitted in writing to the City Administrator.
- All comments below are relating to the Mankato Motorsports project.
- Erin Guentzel, 60374 224<sup>th</sup> Lane, Madison Lake MN, stated she has concerns that there may be conflict of interest with council members.
- Darren Cowl, 65 Teton Lane, Mankato stated the motorsports project would have a positive economic impact and that this will be a gentleman's track and is a great project for this area.
- Brad Johnson, 202 St Street, Mankato stated this track would be great to offer kids a driving school for advanced drivers training opportunities and for the training programs for persons 55 years of age and older for insurance discounts. He also stated that he has been involved with open tracks and that most cars will be driving to the track and will not be loud.
- Lexi Guentzel, 60374 324<sup>th</sup> Lane, Madison Lake stated she has concerns about the cemetery's location, wildlife and noise levels and that there will be a lot of pollution from cars.
- Mike Guentzel, 60374 324<sup>th</sup> Lane, Madison Lake stated he has concerns with conflict of interest and asked who did the third-party review of the EAW, which was Houston Engineering. He also asked who would be responsible for street construction and repairs and concerns that berms will cause snow to accumulate more on the county road.
- John Bense, 22220 604 Ave, Eagle Lake, expressed concerns relating to traffic safety.
- Dee Pendergast, 51982 Edgewater Rd, Lake Crystal, stated the 55+ class is for teaching people as they age. The last few years the Saint Cloud track has been working with youth on a similar facility as is being proposed for Eagle Lake.
- Leon Wacholz, 232 Ann Drive, Eagle Lake, stated this project will be a good, clean commercial project for the community.
- Nicole Davros, 101 Valley Lane, Eagle Lake, stated wise development is needed and that this project needs a better location and that she has concerns relating to wildlife and traffic. She also stated that youth do not need extra training and that she does not see this would be a source of economic gain. She also stated an article she recently read called the Dunning-Kruger Effect-Why Idiots Think They Are Experts. She indicated that Council needs to consider wise development and make informed decisions.
- Elizabeth Bass, 205 Woodhill, Mankato, stated she has utilized driving courses to have a safe place to see what her car can do.
- Ryan Bultman, 409 S Agency St, Eagle Lake, stated he holds a CDL and feels advanced training beyond the basics would be valuable.
- Dan Schoneck, Minnesota Lake, stated he is a car enthusiast and wants the City Council to know that if they want a track, there will be noise.

- John Anton, 61199 Frederick Drive, Madison Lake, stated he is connected to this project and that the decibels of this with wind direction and that trees will help with noise. He encouraged City Council to explore decibel blocking options. He also stated he has hunted the land in question and that the deer migration would not be blocked and that there would not be a great impact on wildlife.
- Brandon Olson, 213 LeRay Ave, Eagle Lake, stated that people need to know the facts and look at the big picture and that any construction affects wildlife. He stated that the public may not know all the facts but that the City Council will have all the facts
- Mike Kennedy, Madison Lake, stated that he visited the track in Nevada and that this is a great pastime. He asked what this area offers older people and that this is a good option.
- Lyle Groskreutz, 22298 604<sup>th</sup> Ave, Eagle Lake, stated that the developer should pay to make the road safe and that fences and berms are needed. He spoke of wildlife concerns as well.
- Chad Ragan, 804 Parkway Ave, Eagle Lake, stated he has been around racing for 42 years and travels from state to state with nothing in Minnesota. Elk Hart Lake WI has a similar beautiful facility with wildlife on the track. He recommended anyone looking for information to look at Elk Hart Lake WI.
- Joshua Byrnes, Mankato, stated he is a member of MN State University-Mankato's Car Club and that automotive engineering students compete in car building competitions and this type of track is something they may be able to utilize.
- Richard Kent Purrier, 307 Concetta Trail, stated this project is special and wonders if it is a good fit for the setting, this project deserves special attention.
- Lisa Witt, 120 Hawk Ave, Eagle Lake, stated she has two sons that are motorheads, one is a trainer in Brainerd who works with people of all ages on how to handle their cars better. This is about people coming together to have fun and sharing experiences. No matter where this track is located it will impact people and wildlife.
- Jacob Witt, Pemberton, stated he is part of a racing organization which enjoys driving and instructing others and that there is no outlet like this in the area and it would be nice to have a facility locally. An online petition started on Friday evening in support of this project has over 7,000 signatures.
- Mayor Auringer invited all to review the EAW which is online and at City Hall. The next phase is to accept input and determine if further reviews are necessary. Written comments need to be submitted and can be emailed to the City Administrator, Jennifer Bromeland.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, 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 Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to approve the February 3, 2020 and February 7, 2020 City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell, to approve the consent agenda.
 

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report	Police Report
Fire Report	Building & Zoning Permits	
Resolution 2020-13 Accepting the Disposal of Records		
Resolution 2020-14 Appointing Benjamin Romig to Part-Time Police Officer		
Use of Fire Department Gambling Funds for Fire Equipment Purchase		
- Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Brian Sarff with Bolton and Menk: Eagle Lake Project Updates
  - A. 2020 Agency Street Watermain/Sidewalk Improvements
    - Bolton and Menk has identified unplatted parcels along S. Agency Street on the west side of roadway and utilities and trees that would be impacted if sidewalks are installed on the east side. If council chooses to focus only on the watermain the project could be bid in early April.
    - If sidewalks are to be installed in conjunction with the watermain project the project would be delayed. Blue Earth County's funds for 2020 have been allocated but 2021 may be a better timeframe. Estimated

soft costs are \$800,000 for watermain looping and \$100,000 additional if sidewalks are included. Council discussion included the desire to pursue the sidewalk option as well.

B. County Road 17 Force Main

- The entire line was not able to be televised. What was televised is in stable condition. The abandoned line has a liner and a lot of buildup. There is no evidence of dire pipe condition, except at the end of the line where the force main enters the gravity feed. This section is not under the roadway and there is little risk of the line collapsing.
- Televising results will be presented to Blue Earth County with the recommendation the pipe be left as is.

C. 2019 Water Main Looping Project and Storm Drainage Update

- The watermain looping project is complete except for grass restoration. The storm water drainage project is complete except for grass restoration as well. All sump pumps the city was to connect are complete.

D. Smelly Water

- Mayor Auringer reported receiving complaints about smelly water in the Linda Path Townhomes. Staff will investigate.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Amendment to Recreational Vehicle and Trailer Parking Ordinance (Chapter 4, Section 4.115)

- Administrator Bromeland explained that Police Chief Kopp has previously pointed out inconsistencies in the ordinance, notice of the public hearing was published in the Free Press.
- The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments being offered.
- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to amend Chapter 4, Section 4.115 of city code. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

2. Amendment to Tobacco Ordinance (Chapter 13, Section 13.120)

- Administrator Bromeland stated the City's attorney, Chris Kennedy, has recommended the ordinance be changed to be compliant with federal law which changes the age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21 years of age. Minnesota statute remains at 18 years of age. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Free Press.
- Council discussion included that both gas stations are aware of the law change.
- The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments being offered.
- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to amend Chapter 13, Section 13.120 of city code. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Recreation Vehicle and Trailer Parking Ordinance Amendment

- See public hearings.

2. Tobacco Ordinance Amendment

- See public hearings

3. ASCAP License Agreement

- A license is required to play music, the cost of an annual license is \$363. Grant monies have been received to cover costs.
- Music on Parkway dates have been set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of May, June, July, and August.
- Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to authorize payment of the ASCAP License. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

4. Acceptance of \$3,000 Grant for Fire Department from Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to accept the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation grant on behalf of the fire department. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

5. Amendment to Personnel Policy

- Administrator Bromeland presented the request for City Council to consider changing the city's contribution to employees health savings accounts from twice a year to quarterly stating a bi-annual

contribution is problematic when an employee terminates employment in mid-January or mid-July after the contribution to their H.S.A. has already been made.

- Council discussion included that they would like to see the contributions made the end of each quarter, beginning in 2021.
- Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to amend the personnel policy to state the city's contributions to employee's health savings accounts occur quarterly at the end of March, June, September, and December. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

6. Proposal for Police Department Cell Phones

- Chief Kopp explained that through training it has been recommended that cities consider issuing police officers city issued cell phones. City issued cell phones would be used for taking police photos. If an officer uses a personal cell phone their entire phone is subject to review. If approved these phones would be for business use only.
- The monthly cost of cell phones with the government plan would be \$39.99 per line. The cost of the phones will be free, and the city will receive a \$50 credit per line within the first two billing cycles.
- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to authorize the police department to purchase city issued cell phones for officers. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

7. Alternative Landscape Grant Agreement with MPCA

- The City of Eagle Lake's Public Works Department was recently awarded an alternative landscaping equipment matching grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in the amount of \$825. The award is for the replacement of the city's 2-cycle gasoline-powered equipment with electric-powered equipment.
- Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to accept the landscape Grant from MN PCA. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

1. Blue Earth County Community Service Work Program

- County Attorney Patrick McDermott sent the City a letter providing information on this program. Administrator Bromeland will explore this more.

2. Sanitary Survey Report for Eagle Lake Public Water System (PWS)

- The sanitary sewer report was included in the council packet.

3. Snowplow Update

- The new snowplow is in for repairs at Crysteel with an anticipated repair cost of \$7,300. Staff is working with company it was purchased from.

4. Overview of EAW Process and Public Comment Period for Mankato Motorsports Park Project.

5. Upcoming Blue Earth County Clerks and Mayors Meeting in Eagle Lake

- Eagle Lake will be hosting the March 12, 2020 Mayor Clerks meeting which will be held at the Legion starting at 6:30 p.m. Eagle Lake resident Abdi Sabrie will be the speaker.

6. MS4 Update

- Travis Fristed with Braun Intertech, formerly with IS Group, has submitted a bid to provide services for MS4.
- Council discussion included they would like to remain working with IS Group due to the pricing being less than this new bid.

7. Assessment Notice and Open Book Meeting for City of Eagle Lake Properties

- These meetings will be held April 13-17, 2020 at Blue Earth County's Property and Environmental Resources Office.

8. Status of Administrative Clerk Hiring Process and Temp

- Administrator Bromeland will meet with the MN Council of Government representative to review applications. Jada Raymond, temporary employee, started today.

9. Beth Rohrich, GMG Volunteer of the Year

- Eagle Lake resident Beth Rohrich, will be recognized at the Greater Mankato Growth Annual Meeting as one of the Volunteers of the Year.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT**

1. Council Member Steinberg attended the All Seasons Arena Joint Powers Board meeting and reported that North Mankato will be leaving the board. A third sheet of ice will be added in the next year or two.
2. Council Members Steinberg and Mayor Auringer attended the Music on Parkway planning session.
3. Mayor Auringer and Council Member Steinberg will be attending Friday's meeting along with the city's attorney relating to the Mankato Motorsports Park's Developers Agreement. There will be no action until the EAW public comment period closes.

**ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION:** The meeting will be closed as per Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subdivision 3, to review appraisal data and determine the asking price of City owned lots with the following parcel ID #'s: R.12.10.318.132.001, R.12.10.18.132.010, and R.12.10.18.130.018

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to close the public meeting.
- Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to reopen the public meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

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Tim Auringer, Mayor

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Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk