

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – GoTo Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

- Council Members present: John Ries (arrived after roll call was taken), Dennis Terrell, Ryan Short, Garrett Steinberg and Mayor Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Public Works Director Brian Goettl, Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeyer and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the August 3, 4, and 31, 2020 City Council meeting and work session minutes. Motion carried by a roll call vote with Council Members Terrell, Short, Steinberg and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to approve the consent agenda.
 - Monthly Bills
 - Fire Report
 - Gambling Report
 - Resolution 2020-29 CenterPoint Grant Acceptance
 - Resolution 2020-22 Sewer Forcemain Abandonment
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Public Works Report
 - Resolution 20-26 Bit Waive Tort Liability Limits
 - Police Report
 - Building & Zoning Permits
- Motion carried by a roll call vote with Council Members Terrell, Short, Steinberg and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Shane Zahrt, Lobbyist with Flaherty & Hood, PA: Coalition of Greater MN Cities Annual Presentation
 - Mr. Zahrt announced City Administrator Bromeland will be joining the Coalition of Greater MN Cities Board.
 - Mr. Zahrt presented the lobbying efforts of the Coalition of Greater MN Cities and how COVID-19 has affected legislative work and issues. Items presented included CARES Act funding, the bonding bill, forever chemicals and how they relate to treating drinking water, childcare, local government aid, and projected state budget deficit.
 - Council indicated that the city's largest concern is the security of local government aid and that unallotment of these funds has a great impact on the city.
2. Scott Thompson, Traffic Engineer with MnDOT District 7: Address Safety Concerns Posed by City about CSAH 17 and 56 along US 14
 - Administrator Bromeland explained that Council Member Terrell had contacted MnDOT in July following the tragic fatal accident that occurred at US 14 and CSAH 56 to talk about safety concerns with this intersection and the one at US 14 and CSAH 17.
 - Mr. Thompson presented the following relating to all three US 14/Eagle Lake intersections in the 3 ½ years since road improvements were made:

- Intersection CSAH 56/US 14: there has been one fatality and two serious accidents. The statistical crash rate is at 1.12 which is significantly higher than the goal of 0.5. The issue is that the north bound traffic is in conflict with the east bound traffic. Changes to this intersection are needed.
 - CSAH 55/US 14: there are no issues with this intersection and only two minor crashes have occurred.
 - CSAH 17/US 14: there have been no fatal or serious injuries. This intersection has seen above average crash rate but is lower than the critical rate. This intersection will continue to be observed. Signage in median could be an issue and is easily corrected within the next couple of weeks.
 - Immediate adjustments to CSAH 56/US 14 can be made upon approval of City Council. Recommended adjustments includes revising the stop location by painting a stop bar closer to Highway 14 to allow for better sight line for northbound traffic.
 - Three long term correction options to CSAH 56/US 14 were presented: Converting intersection to a right in/right out intersection in which the median would be closed; this would provide the greatest safety. Convert intersection to a ¾ intersection, which is the current design at CSAH 55/US 14. This would include the removal of the west bound acceleration lane and would prohibit north bound traffic from turning left. The third option is to design this intersection as an R-Cut and construct an area for a U-turn and remove the westbound acceleration lane.
 - Mr. Thompson stated he would review available data to see if it can be determined if CSAH 56 has more traffic since the changes at CSAH 17 were constructed.
 - Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County Public Works Director, state he appreciated MnDOT’s communication and that the county has concerns about safety as well. He stated his design preference is the R-Cut.
 - Council authorized MnDOT to stripe stop bar and double yellow lines on CSAH 56.
 - Mike Guenzel, 60374 224th Lane, Madison Lake, stated he feels there is not enough signs and that many people make u-turns at CSAH 17 instead of going to the R-cut. No U-turn signs are needed.
3. Tom Pearson, Special Operations with Video Services Inc: Review Council Chambers Technology Proposal to Live Stream City Council Meeting
- Administrator Bromeland explained the goal of live streaming city meetings is to engage the public that may not be able to attend in person meetings for health and safety reasons due to COVID-19.
 - Tom Pearson presented proposals for video at a cost of \$38,400 and audio equipment at a cost of \$4,750 to live stream public meetings for the city. Training on equipment is included in cost as is one year of telephone support. A dedicated operator of the equipment would be needed. The public could view the live stream through YouTube.
 - Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the purchase of audio and video equipment. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
4. Brian Sarff with Bolton and Menk: 2020 CSAH 17 Forcemain Abandonment Quotation
- Brian Sarff presented a quote to fill the abandoned sanitary sewer line. Seven contractors were asked to submit proposals with GM Contracting the only one submitting a quote. The quote was broken out into two sections; Section A runs from Nissan Motors to the driveway at 2050 County Rd 17 at a cost of \$33,480 and Section B, which would run further east, at a cost of \$41,850 for a total of \$75,330.
 - A permit from Blue Earth County has been received and the county asked that the city consider filling the line east of the mentioned driveway.
 - If City Council awards the project, the work would be completed by the end of November 2020.
 - Administrator Bromeland stated there are sufficient funds in the sanitary sewer reserves to cover the cost of this project.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell to proceed with sections A and B of the forcemain abandonment project. A roll call vote was taken with Council members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
 - Ryan Thilges asked that Blue Earth County be kept informed as to when the work will begin, and that the city may be requested to file for a right-of-way permit.
5. Christopher Vasquez Eagle Lake Youth: Eagle Scout Project at Lake Eagle Park
- Administrator Bromeland explained that Christopher Vasquez is working towards his Eagle Scout rank and that this project has gone to the Park Board.
 - Christopher Vasquez explained that this project will involve making the nature path in and around the Adventure Park area at Lake Eagle Park trail worthy by adding mulch, trimming weeds and tall grass and adding interactive signs with QR codes containing educational information about plants and animals found in Eagle Lake. He has been in contact with the Public Works department and will coordinate with both he

the Park Board and Public Works throughout this project. His goal is to have this project completed before winter. Christopher will arrange for the volunteer help.

- Public Works Director, Brian Goettl, stated the city has mulch available for this project as well as materials needed for the signs.
6. Trent Talle with Eagle Lake Fire Department: Update to Fire Relief Association By-Laws
 - Trent Talle explained the Relief Association would like to update their bylaws to include missing information relating to the Day Time Rescue, stating they are not eligible for membership. The goal of this update is to put current practice into writing. The fire department voted unanimously at the August meeting to approve this change.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to adopt amended and updated fire relief bylaws as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.
 7. Beth Rohrich, Parks and Recreation Board Member: 2020 Parks Project and Next Steps.
 - Beth Rohrich explained that in order to receive the \$25,000 sale discount the park equipment would need to be ordered by September 31, 2020. The equipment will take approximately six weeks to be delivered so it will need to be stored over the winter and installed in the spring.
 - She thanked the community for coming together and showing their support by donating \$10,850 in the last three days for a total of \$30,930. She also stated that donations will still be needed to help cover costs of rubber chips for the base material at all three parks within Eagle Lake.
 - Council discussion included the desire to hold off on the purchase of the rubber chips until they are needed so they will not have to be stored over the winter.
 - Council Members thanked Beth Rohrich and Bridget Larson for all their work on this project.
 - Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to authorize the purchase of the playground equipment. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Technology Proposal to Live Stream City Council Meetings
 - See item three under presentations.
2. Quote for 2020 CSAH 17 Foremain Abandonment
 - See item four under presentations.
3. Update to Fire Relief Association By-Laws
 - See item six under presentations.
4. Authorization to Purchase 2020 Parks Project Equipment
 - See item seven under presentations.
5. Estimate from JR Bruender Construction, Inc for Grading at New Eagle Heights City park at 241 Oak Drive
 - This was included in the approval of the Parks Project motion.
6. Estimate from Nielson Blacktopping for Street Repairs
 - Public Works Director Brian Goettl stated three companies were contacted and the only estimate received was from Nielson Blacktopping in the amount of \$73,036.25 and that the work would be completed this fall.
 - Council discussion included the desire ask WW Blacktopping to submit a bid since they have provided work for the city in the past. Administrator Bromeland stated she would need to contact legal counsel on this process since Nielson's bid is now public information.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to accept Nielson Blacktopping's bid or the bid from WW Blacktopping, if it is lower, pending approval from legal counsel. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer in favor.
7. Resolution 2020-27: Resolution Accepting Donations for Parks Project
 - Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell, to approve Resolution 2020-27 Accepting Donations for Parks Project. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

8. Resolution 2020-28: Resolution for TIF Assignment

- Administrator Bromeland explained the owners of the Cedar Point Townhomes are refinancing and since there is Tax Increment Financing (TIF) involved she contacted Shannon Sweeney with David Drown and Associates and attorney Mary Ipple who drafted the resolution. The terms of the TIF agreement proved for a reimbursement of 95% of the tax increments generated by the project, not-to-exceed \$983,022. To date, \$910,345.94 has been paid.
- Discussion included that in 2021 TIF maximum reimbursement amount will be met.
- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to approve Resolution 2020-28 A Resolution for TIF Assignment. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

9. Restrict Sale of Squad Car Proceeds for Future Capital Improvement Purchase for Police Department

- Administrator Bromeland stated the city received \$7,026.50 for the sale of the squad car and is asking Council to consider restricting these funds specifically for futures capital outlay expenditures for the police department.
- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to restrict the funds from the sale of the squad car for future capital outlay purchase for the police department. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

10. Fire Contract with LeRay Township

- Administrator Bromeland attended the LeRay Township meeting and the township has asked for consistency. They would like the contracted fee to be the same amount for the length of the contract. The proposed contracted annual amount is \$32,341.28 for years 2021-2023. The past contracts have been for three years, but the township has asked for a four-year contract. The proposed contract is an 8.7% increase which is approximately a two percent annual increase. If approved the contract will go to legal counsel for review prior to sending to the township.
- Council Member Short moved, seconded by Council Member Terrell, to approve the LeRay Fire Contract as presented.
- Council Member Short amended original motion to include the annual fee of \$32,341.25. Council Member Terrell seconded the amended motion. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

11. Community Forestry Corps Agreement and Program Opportunity

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the city has been awarded a Community Forestry Corps position for the 2020-2021 year. There is no cost to the City, but the City would need to agree to serve as the service site for the AmeriCorps Community Forestry member. As the service site, the City would need to provide a workspace for the member and supervision. The Community Forestry member would be issued a notebook computer through the AmeriCorps program. No City vehicles would be driven by the member as the member would be able to drive their personal vehicle. The person in this position would work 20 hours a week.
- This position would serve the following essential functions: tree inventorying, planning and implementing tree planting events with volunteers and/or host site staff, Emerald Ash Borer management plan development and implantation, provide outreach and education about the importance of trees in our community.
- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Mayor Auringer, to enter into an agreement to be the host side provider for the AmeriCorps Community Forestry Agreement. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor. Council Member Terrell voted in opposition.

12. Phase 2 of Parks Project: Timeline for Demolition and Replacement of Pavilion

- Administrator Bromeland explained the City has fielded several concerns from residents about the structural integrity of the pavilion at Lake Eagle Park. It was noted during the most recent inspection of the pavilion by the City's building inspector, Dan Murphy, that the structure is deemed unsafe and should be fenced off and demolished. It is unclear if the structure was damaged recently during storms involving strong, damaging winds, but the leaning of the structure appears to have worsened recently. Staff will submit a claim to the City's insurance company for further investigation. The Park Board will look at the scope and design of a new pavilion as well as fundraising efforts.
- Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to authorize the demolition of the pavilion in Lake Eagle Park. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

- Administrator Bromeland stated she had been contacted about the Little Library attached to the pavilion at the park. This was their son's Boy Scout Eagle Project and they would like it preserved. Staff will remove it for it to be installed in a new location.
13. Proposed Preliminary 2021 Tax Levy and Budget and Next Steps
- Administrator Bromeland explained the preliminary levy must be adopted by September 30, 2020. The preliminary levy can be lowered but not increased once adopted. Last year's levy was set at 7.5% or an increase of \$52,681. Property values should have remained relatively stable for properties given the net tax capacity and tax rate.
 - The proposed tax levy is an increase of 7.5% or \$56,632 over last year's total tax levy. The budget would be balanced except for planned capital outlay expenditures totaling \$185,667. The planned capital outlay expenditures will be paid for using funds already set aside in the general fund reserves specifically earmarked for capital outlay expenditures.
 - Proposed tax levy amounts for 2021 are \$608,936 for the General Fund, \$51,000 for EDA, and \$157,092 for Debt Service for a total of \$811,728.
 - Enterprise funds budgets are still being worked on.
 - The Truth in Taxation meeting will take place on December 7, 2020 and if a continuation meeting is needed, it will be held December 14, 2020.
 - Council Member Ries moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to approve Resolution 2020-30 A Resolution Setting the Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary City Budget and Preliminary Property Tax Levy. A roll call vote was taken with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer.

OTHER

1. Discuss Safety Resuming In-Person City Council and Board Meetings
- Administrator Bromeland explained that she has emailed the League of MN Cities regarding ways to resume in person city meetings. Discussion included a hybrid approach in which smaller board and commission meetings could be in person and if a meeting is unable to accommodate number of people attending, it would then go to remote meeting.
 - If in person meetings are held the city does not have options to accommodate individuals not comfortable with attending in person meetings.
 - Large venue locations for meeting would be an alternate option.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Lead/Copper Tap Water Monitoring Report, PWSID 1070002
- Report is in the meeting packet for Council to review.
2. Water Study Update and Recent Social Media Posts about Water Quality Concerns
- Administrator Bromeland explained there are ongoing issues with rusty water and that at the time of the writing of the memo for the Council packet Bolton and Menk had not received a response from the property owner. The water issue is being looked into. The full study will take about three months to complete and a report will be provided to the City. Bolton and Menk will also draft of frequently asked questions document.
 - Davin and Joan Quiram were invited to provide input on their rusty water issues. They stated the problems began 10 years ago after the street reconstruction project and that the issues are not constant, but rather periodic. They stated their water heater and lines have been replaced. They also stated that the issue is only with their hot water and that they use hot water for heat.
 - Residents were asked to contact the city directly with water discoloration issues.
3. Business Assistance Grant Program
- Grant applications are being accepted from September 14-September 25, 2020. The review committee will consist of the city administrator, EDA and City Council Member John Ries. Recommendations will be made to the City Council at the October 5, 2020 meeting.
4. Status of Vacant Public Works Worker Position and Timeline to Fill Position
- As of the meeting nine applications have been received. Initial screening of applications will occur on October 2, 2020.
5. Eagle Lake Rec on the GO Program
- Four sessions of Rec on the GO will be held during September and October from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
6. Plans to Serve as a Co-Chair for the 2020-2021 CGMG Economic Development Committee
- Most meetings will be held remotely due to COVID-19.

7. Member of 2020 Mankato MYALP Cohort
 - Administrator Bromeland reported she has been selected as a member of the 2020 Greater Mankato Growth cohort for the MN Young American Leaders Program.
8. Report No. 1 Submitted for CARES Act Funding
 - The first report has been submitted and any additional expenses will be submitted monthly.
9. Update Regarding Leaf Vac Rental Request by Madison Lake City and Lake Association
 - Conversations with Madison Lake's city administrator have taken place. There appears to be interest in renting the leaf vac and an operator at the rate set by the City of Eagle Lake. A rental agreement will be drafted by the City's attorney prior to any services provided.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

- None

ADJOURNMENT

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Short, to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. Motion carried with Council Members Ries, Terrell, Short, Steinberg and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

Tim Auringer, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk