

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Whittington called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Garrett Steinberg, Beth Rohrich, Anthony White, Nick Lewis, and Mayor John Whittington.

Staff Present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch, Public Works Director Andrew Hartman and Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Mitch Gahler.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the agenda. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Steinberg, to approve the February 3, 2025 City Council minutes as presented. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report
Public Works Report	Fire Report
Gambling Report	Building and Zoning Permit
BECSO Report	Res. 2025-14 Active Adults Donation
Res. 2025-15 Fire Dept. Recommendation-Johnson	Utility Bill Reimbursement 102 Sparrowhawk
Utility Bill Reimbursement 205 Perry	

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Lewis, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

PUBLIC HEARING

- None.

PRESENTATION

1. Mitch Kleist with Eagle Lake Expos: Recap of 2024 Season and 2025 Schedule

- In 2024 a sprinkler system was installed on the baseball field, regraded and placed sod in the infield, painted the foul poles, upgraded the PA system, and installed 18 banners of which 16 were from local businesses.
- Proposed upgrades for 2025 include installing bleachers, installing fence caps and fill in and grade low spots in the outfield.
- Community support for the team has increased this past season and the organization enjoyed participating in Tator Days, Summer Sounds, and National Night Out.
- The Expos have been referring to the baseball field as “The People’s Stadium” on their social media website and permission was requested to add signage reflecting that name.
- Permission was requested to put a small chest freezer in the control room of the new pavilion to store concession stand items for the summer season.
- A long-term goal would be to install lighting for the field.
- Council Member Rohrich asked if Mr. Kleist’s requests could be brought to the next Park Board meeting for their input and then back to the Council for approval.
- Council Member White stated he would be in favor of the Park Board saving some funds each year to help contribute to light costs which is estimated to be \$20,000-\$25,000 for used lighting.

2. Vern Simpson, Eagle Lake Fire Chief: Discuss Sale of 4324 Pumper and Equipment

- Spencer Kolles, Fire Department Captain, stated that the fire department would like to sell the older pumper truck on MinnBid with a minimum bid of \$10,000. This vehicle is not being used much but it still needs to be serviced annually.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Advertise for Sale the Fire Department Pumper #4324 and SCBA Equipment

- **Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, authorizing the sale of the old pumper truck #4324 on MinnBid with a minimum bid price of \$10,000.**

2. CSAH 27 Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements Topographic Survey

- Administrator Bromeland stated that before Council is a letter from Bolton and Menk for the CSAH 27 Pedestrian Connectivity project for which the City of Eagle Lake was awarded Federal Transportation Alternative funding for Funding Year 2026. The project must be competitively bid and authorized before the end of June 2026. The critical next step is completing a topographic survey so that we can meet the federal timeline and complete preliminary and final design to identify environmental impacts and right of way needs.
- The cost to complete the topographic survey is approximately \$20,000.
- **Council Member Steinberg moved, seconded by Council Member Lewis, to approve the scope and fee for a topographic survey by Bolton and Menk. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

3. Purchase Request from Public Works for Grapple Attachment for Payloader

- Public Works Director Hartman stated he would like to purchase a grapple attachment for the bucket of the payloader. This would make tree removal more efficient so that they can haul out

branches with the dump trucks. The cost of this equipment would come out of the same line items as the new Tool Cat that is being proposed.

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Lewis, to authorize the purchase of a grapple attachment at a cost of \$10,000. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

4. Purchase Request from Public Works for Bobcat Tool Cat

- Public Works Director Hartman stated he would like to trade in the existing Tool Cat and purchase a new one.
- The trade in amount for the existing Tool Cat is \$37,000 which would bring the cost of the new Tool Cat to \$36,727.20. This replacement was scheduled for 2025 in the capital outlay budget.
- **Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member White, authorizing the trade in of the existing Tool Cat for the purchase of a new one with the total cost with the trade in being \$36,727.20. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

5. Mn Public Facilities Authority Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs- Application Form

- Administrator Bromeland explained that the MN Public Facilities Authority drinking water revolving loan application needs to be updated and that includes the passage of the resolution before the Council. This resolution authorizes the City Administrator and Mayor to sign the required application. This does not commit the City to the project.
- **Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Lewis, to adopt the resolution to authorize the loan application. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. YTD Revenue and Expenditures Report for February 2025

- The February revenue and expenditure report is in the packet for Council review.

2. Highway 14 Corridor Study Update and Next Steps for Public Input

- The Highway 14 Eagle Lake Corridor Study Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) met for the fifth meeting on February 24th. They completed an alternatives analysis and evaluation of 9 proposed options. The corridor includes CR 86, CSAH 56, LeRay Ave (CSAH 55), CSAH 17, 610th Avenue, and MN 60. Phase 2 engagement includes an update to the City Council sometime in April. There will be an open house scheduled in April as well as a pop-up event planned for Tatcho Night on March 28th at the American Legion to hopefully gather feedback from community members.

3. 345kV Transmission Line Project and Opportunity for Public Input

- The City recently received notice from the Minnesota Department of Commerce informing the City that the Mankato-Mississippi River 345kV Transmission Project that has been proposed by Xcel Energy could potentially encroach on Eagle Lake city limits. Xcel applied to the Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need and a route permit to construct and operate the project. As part of the certificate of need and route permitting process for the project, the Commission must

complete and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to identify potential impacts of the proposed project and any alternatives that are brought forward for consideration. Segments 1 and 2 of the routes originally proposed by Xcel Energy travel west to east, close to Highway 60, and north of Eagle Lake. During a public information and scoping meeting, an alternative route was proposed for the project to follow the U.S. Highway 14 corridor, rather than the originally proposed routes by Xcel Energy. The U.S. Highway 14 alternative was one of several alternatives carried forward for further consideration and has been included in the EIS Scoping Decision for the proposed project. This means that Eagle Lake could potentially be impacted. The draft EIS is scheduled to be completed and released on May 5, 2025, and will be available for public review. There will be public hearings scheduled in May and a public comment period open. City staff will work to draft a comment to document concerns about any route potentially encroaching into City limits or along Highway 14 that could restrict future medications to make the roadway abutting Eagle Lake safer. City staff has requested a meeting with a representative from the Minnesota Department of Commerce to better understand potential impacts and opportunities for input and comments to be submitted on record.

4. Recap of Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Day at the Capitol and Meetings with Legislators
 - Mayor Whittington and Administrator Bromeland attended the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) Day at the Capital. They heard from Governor Walz, a legislative panel, and CGMC staff on legislative priorities this session. They also had the opportunity to meet with the City's lobbyist and hold individual meetings with three legislators to talk about Eagle Lake's Water Treatment Improvements Project.
5. Recap of Greater Mankato Growth Day at the Capitol
 - Mayor Whittington, Council Member Rohrich, and Administrator Bromeland attended the Greater Mankato Growth (GMC) Day at the Capitol. They heard from Governor Walz, various legislators, and key administration official on issues that are important to the Mankato region.
6. Open Book Notice
 - The Assessment Notice from Blue Earth County has been received informing us of the upcoming Open Book meeting for Eagle Lake the 21st-25th of April 2025. The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor. If residents believe their value or classification of their property is incorrect, they can contact the assessor's office to discuss their concerns. If they are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with the assessor, they can appear before the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed.
7. Solar on Public Buildings Project and Next Steps
 - Eagle Lake's application has been selected to submit a full application for the Minnesota Solar on Public Buildings Program. Part of this application process will require a RFP be drafted to include with the application. The completion of the full application does not commit the City to anything.

8. Pedestrian Connectivity Federal Grant Award and Next Steps
 - The topographic survey will take place, and the City of Eagle Lake will need to work with Blue Earth County on paperwork and also to work on obtaining local grant funding.
9. Electric Vehicle Grant Award and Next Steps
 - This grant has been awarded but access to funding is still in process.
10. Stormwater and Community Resilience Open House: March 4 from 4:30 – 6:30 at City Hall
 - This open house is part of the stormwater and community resilience project funded via a planning grant from MPCA.
11. Update on Personnel Policy Updates and Next Steps
 - City staff are currently working with Minnesota Valley Council of Governments (MVCOG) staff on a review of the Personnel Policy. City staff are hoping to bring this before the Personnel Committee later in March and the City Council after that.
12. Full-Time Employee Lee Accrual and Use Summar Report
 - This report will be included monthly for Council review.

COUNCIL REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, Lewis, and Mayor Whittington voting in favor.

John Whittington, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy City Clerk