

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Garrett Steinberg 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, John Whittington. Staff Present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Fire Chief Vern Simpson, and Public Works Director Andrew Hartman. Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office Liaison: Lieutenant Mitch Gahler.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the September 9, 2024 City Council minutes as presented. The motion was carried with Council Member Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Monthly Bills	Treasurer's Report
Public Works Report	Fire Report
BECSO Report	Gambling Report
Building & Zoning Permits	Board & Commission Minutes
Res. 2024-44 Ditschler-Ploog to Fire Dept. Reserves	

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- None.

**PRESENTATION**

1. Shannon Sweeney with David Drown Associates: 2024A GO Temporary Water Revenue Note

- Shannon Sweeney with David Drown Associates, Inc. was at the meeting to present recommendations regarding the sale of bonds to temporarily finance engineering and design costs for the proposed water treatment facility project. CornerStone State Bank has agreed to purchase the temporary note at an interest rate of 4.5% which Mr. Sweeney stated that he felt was competitive with other alternatives. Discussion ensued regarding the terms of the \$1,259,000 General Obligation Temporary Water Revenue Note. It was stated that if the City Council chooses to finance the project costs as proposed in the cash flow/payment schedule included with the council packet materials, the following were recommended: 3 year term on financing which is the maximum allowed under statute; bonds callable at any time without penalty; bank placement with CornerStone State Bank using the MN Rural Water Mega Loan Program which reduces the costs of issuance; and interest rate of 4.5% fixed for the duration. If determined appropriate to proceed, it was noted that the award sale would take place on October 7, 2024 with the closing taking place on November 1, 2024. Included with the council packet materials is Resolution No. 2024-45, providing for the award of sale which has been prepared by the City's bond counsel (Taft). Mr. Sweeney stated that he recommends that the City Council approve the resolution if it is determined to be appropriate to proceed with the temporary project financing as proposed. Discussion further ensued.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution Providing for the Issuance and Sale of a \$1,259,000 Temporary General Obligation Water Revenue Note, Series 2024A
  - **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve Resolution No. 2024-45, providing for the award of sale of a \$1,259,000 temporary general obligation water revenue note, Series 2024A, and pledging net revenues for the security thereof in anticipation of long-term financing. The motion carried with Council Member Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**
2. Quote for New Meter at Well Site for Generator
  - Administrator Bromeland shared that attached with the memo in the packet was a quote from CenterPoint Energy for a new gas meter for the generator at the well site. It was explained that the new meter will replace the existing meter due to added generator load. The cost of the new meter is quoted at \$10,100. Administrator Bromeland went on to provide background that Eagle Lake received \$143,617 in one-time public safety aid in 2024 and that there is currently \$36,440.42 remaining of which the cost for the new meter will be deducted. It was noted that the cost for the new meter for the generator at City Hall will be \$3,500. This is the final step in the process as the new generator has been installed and we are just waiting for the new gas meter. In the meantime, the City will continue renting the other generator until the new one is fully operational.
  - **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the quote from CenterPoint Energy for a new gas meter in the amount of \$10,100. The motion was carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**
3. Minnesota Transportation Alliance Membership
  - Administrator Bromeland explained that attached to the memo in the packet is a Minnesota Transportation Alliance (MTA) membership application form for the City of Eagle Lake. The cost for

an annual membership is \$325. It was further explained that MTA addresses transportation funding and policy issues involving all modes of transportation, and at all levels of government. Area organizations that are currently members include the cities of New Ulm, St. Peter, North Mankato, while the Blue Earth County engineer and Mankato engineer are also members. Benefits of membership include access to timely, reliable information on current legislative activity and opportunities to talk with lawmakers and network with other transportation industry members and advocates. Administrator Bromeland stated that she recommended that the City of Eagle Lake become a member of MTA as the Highway 14 Corridor Study progresses and future funding needed to make the roadway safer.

- Discussion ensued.
- **Council Member Whittington moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve becoming a member of MTA at a cost of \$325 for a 12-month membership. The motion carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**

#### 4. Updated Personnel Employee Handbook

- Administrator Bromeland explained that an updated copy of the City of Eagle Lake Personnel Policies Handbook was attached to the memo in the packet. It was noted that the handbook was adopted in 2016 and is a work in progress as there are ongoing necessary revisions and updates. Ideally, the City Council should review annually and consider major revisions and overhauls at least once every 3 to 5 years. City staff indicated that she is in the process of working with MN Valley Council of Governments to conduct a thorough review in 2025 to ensure compliance with most recent state and federal laws.
- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the updated handbook. The motion was carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**

#### 5. City Cost-Share Portion of Pedestrian Ramps in Fox Meadows Housing Development

- Administrator Bromeland shared that a request was received in 2023 from a resident to move a sidewalk prior to construction in the Fox Meadows Housing Development along Blace Avenue to the south side instead of the north side. Additional pedestrian ramps would be needed if the sidewalk was moved to the south side. Discussion took place at that time about the City absorbing the cost for the pedestrian ramps along Blace Avenue since the decision to move the sidewalk to the other side of the road was made after the plans were approved. The cost per pedestrian ramp is \$1,225 with four pedestrian ramps needed totaling \$4,900.
- Discussion ensued.
- **Council Member Rohrich moved, seconded by Council Member Whittington, to approve reimbursing Fox Meadows Housing Development/Troy Schrom \$4,900 for pedestrian ramps because of moving the sidewalk along Blace Avenue from the north side to the south side. The motion was carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**

#### 6. Public Purpose Expenditure Policy

- Administrator Bromeland explained that due to being short-staffed, she has not yet had the time to complete the policy and would like to table the matter. It was explained that the City Council

inquired a while back about holding an employee appreciation event and that after doing some research, City staff learned that to hold such an event, that a policy would be needed. No action was taken.

7. Broken Fire Hydrant at the Intersection of Peggy Lane and Linda Drive

- Public Works Director Andrew Hartman presented pricing to purchase a new water hydrant to replace the existing one at the intersection of Peggy Lane and Linda Drive. The pricing is from Core and Main in the amount of \$7,611.40. It was explained that the new hydrant is needed to replace the one that was at Peggy Lane and Linda Drive that is no longer operational.
- City Administrator Bromeland asked Public Works Director Hartman if the hydrant was hit by a contractor as she was contacted by a resident concerned that a contractor hit it and broke the hydrant.
- Public Works Director Hartman explained that the contractor that was in town to clean the sewer lines picked random hydrants around town to draw water and happened to pick this hydrant. Apparently, they tried to use it and the entire top of the hydrant came off. When asked if the contractor broke the hydrant, Public Works explained that it does not appear that the contractor broke the hydrant as there was a rust ring visible and that it hadn't been used for some time.
- Discussion ensued.
- **Council Member White moved, seconded by Council Member Rohrich, to approve the pricing obtained to purchase a new hydrant from Core and Main in the amount of \$7,611.40. The motion was carried with Council Members Steinberg, Rohrich, White, and Whittington voting in favor.**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Health Insurance Rates for 2025 Update

- Per a meeting with the City's insurance agent, health insurance rates for 2025 are higher than anticipated. The City's insurance agent recommends obtaining multiple bids and has suggested that a bid be obtained from the South-Central Service Cooperative. When the bid is received, it will be reviewed with the City Council and staff to determine if the City will stay with Blue Cross Blue Shield or switch plans to Medica. According to the City's insurance agent, the plans would be nearly identical as far as deductibles and coverage so that the employees aren't negatively affected.

2. Community Development Hiring Update

- A conditional offer was extended and accepted for the position of Community Development Coordinator; however, the candidate withdrew his acceptance after receiving a counteroffer that he said he couldn't turn down from his current employer. City staff will work together with MVCOG to discuss reposting the position.

3. Climate Resiliency Project – Survey.

- City Council members were encouraged to take a few minutes and complete the climate resiliency project survey.

4. Rural Child Care Innovation Program -Survey and Town Hall Event

- City Council members were encouraged to take a few moments to complete the survey and register for the Town Hall event.

5. Tree Identification Walk at Lake Eagle Park

- A tree identification walk will be led by the City’s Climate Impact Corps Member on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-4:30 p.m.
- 6. Mayors and Clerks Meeting
  - The City of Eagle Lake will be hosting a Mayors and Clerks meeting on October 10 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Blue Earth County will be providing an opioid settlement update along with providing a K9 demonstration.
- 7. Fall Conference in Alexandria
  - Council member John Whittington and City Administrator Bromeland will be attending the fall Coalition of Greater MN Cities conference in Alexandria, November 21-22.
- 8. Year to Date Expenditures and Revenues.
  - Attached to the packet was a year-to-date expenditure and revenue report.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Council Member Rohrich reported that the Park Board has been working on exciting initiatives to engage different groups in the community.
2. Council Member Whittington said that the RCCIP process is underway and encouraged everyone to sign up for the Town Hall event and to please take the survey.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Garrett Steinberg, Mayor Pro Tem

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Jennifer J. Bromeland, City Administrator