

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 8, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Champa called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom video teleconference instead of in person due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and Minnesota Governor Walz's Executive Order to "Stay at Home". All votes were done by roll call vote.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members Tracy Campbell, April Fountain, Adam Lantz, Travis Vake, Jim Varda, and Mayor John Champa

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator Bill Manney, Attorney Bhupesh Pattni, Building Official Mandy Galli, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Fire Chief Bob Brown, Library Supervisor Katie Christenson, Police Chief Vern Manner, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Recreation Director Tammy Nevalainen, Administrative Assistant Margaret Gornick, Terry Hartikka with Mesabi Community Television, and Marie Tolonen with the Chisholm Tribune Press

**ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Varda to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**REPORTS**

Councilor Campbell gave an overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020 ambulance report, there were 8 cancelled runs, 19 no loads, 142 residents, 5 non-residents, 5 from Balkan, 8 from French Township, 0 from Unorganized Township, 8 Buhl Mutual Aid, 5 Hibbing Mutual Aid. There were 200 total runs which is up from 180 last quarter. She attended the Police Commission yesterday at the Sr. Citizen's Center.

Councilor Lantz has met with the campground committee a few times. They will be meeting on the development of the campground. There will be an event at Bennett Park on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. hosted by Voices of Ethnic Multi-culture Awareness. They would like Law Enforcement, Fire Personnel and First Responders to attend.

Councilor Fountain attended a RAMS meeting with Mayor Champa on June 25<sup>th</sup>. She reported there is 62 million in grants available for ATV trails. She met with the campground committee a few times via zoom. On June 29<sup>th</sup> she met with the council and the school board, they talked about the SRO contract, Officer Joel Urdahl will be the new SRO. They talked about speed limits and signs. They will have another meeting soon. She felt the meeting went very well.

Councilor Vake attended the EDA Coordinator interviews. He attended the walk thru of the 8<sup>th</sup> St NW project with Mesaba Bituminous and Knife River. They created a punch list of items that need to be fixed on this project.

Councilor Varda reported the fire department has had 3 calls this month, 11 last month and 86 year to date. There were no anniversaries this month.

Mayor Champa missed the last PUC meeting. He reported the HRA extended Jerry Cullitan's contract for two years at \$86,000 per year. He did not receive a wage increase.

Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson reported the crack sealing program has been completed. They are working on the chip sealing now. The sub-contractors are working on the punch list items for the 13<sup>th</sup> St NW project. The Public Safety Building Water Main Looping project is complete. The 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW mill and overlay is complete. They are working on the pickle ball court. The Public Informational Meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW project is next week. The council is not required to attend this meeting. The Public Hearing is scheduled for July 22 at 4:30 p.m. at the Sr. Citizen's Center. Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad reported the annual dust control was completed today. He has a new seasonal employee working at the campground and is very pleased with her enthusiasm for the position. He is working with the campground committee. The Lokkens are pleased with the way things are progressing. The end of August is the completion date for the garbage trucks. His staff is hauling gravel and filling holes in alleys. The city wide drop off is next week.

Library Supervisor Katie Christenson reported there have been 214 people using the curbside checkout for library items and it is going well. The summer reading program will start on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The carpet has been installed at the library and the roof project is being worked on.

Recreation Director Tammy Nevalainen thanked the council on behalf of Kathy Skurla for the opportunity to work in the Public Works Department this summer. She has been meeting with the Kiwanis Club. They are looking at hosting a movie the end of July. The library has a transferable license for movies.

Administrator Bill Manney reported COVID-19 is becoming more of a challenge. Some people feel everyone should wear a mask and some feel everything should be open.

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(Continued)**

**ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Lantz to accept the Consent Agenda, including the List of Bills, Minutes of the previous June 24, 2020 Regular Meeting with one correction, Payroll and Overtime.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**FIELD HOUSE BIDS**

Moved by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Fountain to accept the low bid of \$12,500.00 from ACCT. Inc. contingent upon them providing us with a list of items that will be completed for the removal of the pigeon remains and feces in the field house attic area.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**ARENA LED UPGRADE PROPOSAL**

Motion by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Campbell to approve the LED upgrade for the arena for \$30,004.00 for 56 lights and controllers; \$1,000 for lift rental and 56 plug-in ends. There is an \$12,298.00 rebate which brings the total cost to \$18,706.00.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**CONFIRM WATER PLANT OPERATOR / UTILITY INTERNAL EMPLOYEE PROMOTION**

This was an informational item at this time.

**MISSISSIPPI FLAG ON CAUSEWAY**

This was an informational item at this time.

**PAYMENT APPLICATION NO. 1 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY  
BUILDING WATER MAIN LOOPING PROJECT**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Varda to authorize payment of \$381,635.61 to TNT Aggregates, Inc. for payment application No. 1 for the Public Safety Building Water Main Looping project.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 90 AMENDING CITY CODE  
RESTRICTIONS KEEPING DOGS AND CATS**

This was an informational item at this time.

**COVID-19 EXPENDITURE RELIEF FUND**

This was an informational item at this time.

**EDA / CDA FUNDING REQUEST**

Moved by Councilor Varda and supported by Councilor Vake to authorize Administrator Manney to transfer \$25,000.00 from the General Fund to the EDA.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 0720-49 ST. LOUIS COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Moved by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt Resolution No. 0720-49 for the St. Louis County All-hazard Mitigation Plan.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**STATE OF MN ATV GRANT CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Varda to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota for the City of Chisholm to act as the pass through for the Northern Traxx ATV Club for an \$18,000.00 grant.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**CHAMBER COVID-19 PLAN DOC MOONLIGHT GRAHAM DAYS PARADE PROCESSIONAL**

Moved by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Vake to approve the COVID-19 plan for the Doc Moonlight Graham Days Parade Processional.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE**

This was an informational item at this time.

**ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF FIREFIGHTER ALLEN HIETALA**

Moved by Councilor Varda and supported by Councilor Lantz to accept the resignation of Allen Hietala from the Chisholm Volunteer Fire Department.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

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**SUPER DUPER BUILDING**

Moved by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Fountain to direct the City Attorney to draft a letter to deem the building as a hazardous building.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

1. Mayor Champa would like to have Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson identify the areas in town that would benefit from mill and overlay.
2. Councilor Varda would like to have the council perform reviews of the Department Heads.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Moved by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Fountain to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

/s/ John A. Champa,  
Mayor

Attest:

/s/ William Manney,  
City Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator