

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Adam Lantz called the City Council Meeting to order in the City Hall Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Marty Halverson, Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja, April Fountain, Jed Holewa, Travis Vake, and Mayor Adam Lantz

Absent: None

Also Present: City Administrator Stephanie Skraba, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar from Trenti Law Firm, Ambulance Director Tiffany Larson, Fire Chief Chris Masucci, Building Official/Zoning/Safety Director Mandy Galli, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Bridgit Maruska, Clerk-Treasurer Eileen Zah, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Eric Tweten from Mesabi Community TV.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt the agenda with the deletion of C2 MAPE Labor Agreement and C3 AFSCME Labor Agreement and the addition of the Drill Bit Proposals from Braun Intertec Corporation.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

REPORTS

Councilor Halverson had no report.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja had no formal report but wished everyone a happy spring.

Councilor Fountain wished everyone a happy financial literacy month and national library week April 23rd through the 29th. She encourages to get a library card and come in and say hi to your friendly librarians. She announced some of the events happening in Chisholm such as the Honor Students Pow Wow for students and families, open to everyone at the Discovery Center on May 13th at 2:00 pm, a Mother's Day designers purse bingo at Valentini's' on May 11th at 7:00 pm, a memorial fountain fundraiser Monday, April 24th at the Chisholm Senior Center, and the key club is having a donation drive for Precious Paws April 4th through the 28th.

Councilor Vake reported that there has been some initial changes to the memorial bridge, moving it closer to town. On May 18th there is a community fundraiser 1950's style sock hop burger bash. Councilor Holewa reported that he attended the EDA meeting, housing meeting, and Rams lunch and learn. He continues to meet with business owners and attended the Lake Power Annual meeting. Some facts he was asked to share from the meeting are that the Carbon Neutral House bills that were passed back in February are fast tracked to sign into law in 2027. This would require 100 % carbon neutral by 2040 and 85% carbon neutral by 2035. Minnesota is already ahead of the current standards. Technology to fully transition to this has not been developed yet. They are advocating for a specific exemption but were denied. Existing facilities will be retired early while still serving providing value and paid for by the tax payers. Battery power does not yet exist on the scale that would hold us to that standard. Black outs in Minnesota are a major public safety concern.

Mayor Lantz reported that he attended the EDA Meeting, that it has been a whirlwind of weeks and very busy. He would like to thank Fire Fighters Gary Milton, David Chase, Patrick Pope, Erick Olsen, and James North all with two years on.

Ambulance Director Tiffany had no report.

Fire Chief Masucci reported that they are running high on fire calls and will be around 160 for the year. So far there has been 13 mutual aid calls, 26 calls in Chisholm and Balkan. Engine number one was down was down for a couple of days, but it is back now. They plan to burn on the east entrance by the Bruce Mine Headframe, weather permitting. He plans to put a truck committee together to start conversations about the best way to go to replace the aging rigs. The Firefighter banquet is this weekend for members and retirees.

Police Chief Manner was absent.

City Building Official/Zoning Galli had no report.

City Engineer Johnson was absent.

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Public Works Supervisor Folstad reported although it looks like spring, there is still cooler weather coming. The sweeper will be out once they can see the curbs. They are getting their summer equipment ready. He has been getting calls about the 73 corridor, and those issues have been called into the MN Dot for maintenance. They are working through hiring seasonal laborers. The run off has been handled very well this year and almost all of the snow has melted. There is guest in the campground, although it is very soft up there. They will be doing stumps in the morning and trees and sweeping in the afternoons when it is nicer outside but are not taking the plows off yet.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska was absent.

Library Supervisor Christenson was absent.

Attorney Kosluchar had no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Zah reminded everyone about the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization happening on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. The city has been receiving many appeals that are shared with the county so they are ready for the meeting on Tuesday. Administrator Skraba and her have been working diligently on the funding components on the Public Safety Building. They are also working with the Department Heads about Capital Improvements for the city in hopes of being able to set aside money for those bigger purchases coming up in the next few years. In the past, that plan was for the next 10 years, but it seems too far out and would be more feasible at 5 years out. She met with the strategic advisor over at VC3, formerly CW Technology, who provides quarterly updates on how the city's systems are performing, how tickets are being resolved, any issues that are being resolved, and also provides information on capital improvement dollars including budget on replacement of equipment. There will need to be discussions about equipment for the new Public Safety Building. Accountant Misty will be returning to the office on May 1, 2023.

Administrator Skraba reported that Redhead is closed until the ground can dry out and open for summer biking. The League of Minnesota Cities had a training day yesterday that some staff were able to attend in Virginia. They provide very good trainings. The financials and other requirements for the Public Safety Building are moving forward. The ground breaking will hopefully be coming up soon in a month or so. The existing building will need to be demolished and the site is being prepped for building. Chief Manner was not present today because he was presenting at two different conferences about the Nancy Doherty Case.

ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Halverson to Accept the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the March 22, 2023, Regular Meeting, March 23, 2023 Working Session, Payroll and Overtime.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

ADOPTION OF THE FINAL ZONING MAP AND TEXT AMENDMENTS

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Holewa to approved the 2023 Zoning Map with one change to 605 3rd Street SW Parcels 020-0085-00640 and 020-0085-00630 (Iron Kettle), Showed as R-1 and the Council Changed it to Existing Business.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: Councilor Fountain

Absent: None

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 153.25 AND 153.521

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Vake to approve Ordinance Amending City Code 153.25 and 153.251 with the effective date of April 12, 2023.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: Councilor Fountain

Absent: None

Motion Carried

GAMBLING REVENUE UPDATE

Clerk-Treasurer Zah provided information on the gambling revenues, the source of the funds, and where the funds can be used according to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board.

WENTON ADDITION OPEN HOUSE

Administrator Skraba announced the Wenton Addition Open House that is scheduled for April 25, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the IRRR Mineland Reclamation Building located at 1003 Discovery Drive, Chisholm, MN. 55719

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REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 12, 2023**

EDA TO PURCHASE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BUILDING

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the EDA purchase of the St. Louis County building at 16 W Lake Street, Chisholm, MN. 55719.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

BLACK BEAR BAKERY INTENT TO PURCHASE VACANT LOT

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the purchase of the vacant lot next to the Black Bear Bakery.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

DRILL TEST BIT PROPOSALS

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Geotechnical Evaluation and Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the development of the parcels south of Iron Drive and East of Iron World Road including St. Louis County/Essentia & Daycare Facility.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

REQUEST FOR CITY WIDE FESTIVAL -DOC MOONLIGHT GRAHAM DAYS

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to declare a city-wide festival on May 5, 2023 for the Doc Moonlight Graham Days beer tasting fundraiser.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0423-25 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to proclaim the month of April 2023 Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

SCHEDULE A WORKING SESSION FOR MAY 2, 2023

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to schedule a working session for May 2, 2023 at the Chisholm Senior Center during the Strong Towns Community Action Lab.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

SCHEDULE A WORKING SESSION FOR APRIL 25, 2023

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to schedule a working session for April 25, 2023 at the IRRR Mineland Building at 6:00 pm for the Wenton Addition Open House.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

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REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 12, 2023**

ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:45 pm.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Attest:

/s/ Adam Lantz, Mayor

/s/Stephanie Skraba, Administrator