

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING– FEBRURY 28, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Adam Lantz called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Marty Halverson, Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja, Jed Holewa, and Mayor Adam Lantz.

Absent: Councilors April Fountain and Travis Vake

Also Present: Administrator Stephanie Skraba, Ambulance Director Tiffany Larson, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Bridgit Maruska, Library Supervisor Katie Christenson, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar, Clerk-Treasurer Eileen Zah, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Donna Rahkola with Mesabi Community TV.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake

Motion Carried

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Georgia Lane, Aging Services Planner from Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging presented information on the AARP Age Friendly Designation Network. She provided information about the increasing older population (those 85 and above) that will more than double in the next 35 years. She discussed the integral community presence those age 65 and older contribute to the community and to the economy. She provided statistic specific to Chisholm such as 28 % of people living in Chisholm are age 60 and above. The Age-Friendly network provides a roadmap to make changes in the community, bring like-minded organizations together, and focuses on key areas of livability for all ages.

REPORTS

Councilor Halverson reported that he attended a Redhead planning committee meeting.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja reported that she attended the League of Minnesota Cities Leadership workshop in Plymouth. It was great information and highly recommended. They continue to work through the process of hiring an Executive Director for the HRA.

Councilor Fountain was absent.

Councilor Holewa reported that he attended the working session that was held after the last meeting, the PUC meeting, worked as an election judge at the local care facility, attended the precinct caucus the previous evening, and encouraged everyone to vote in the Presidential Primary next week.

Councilor Vake was absent but requested the mayor to extend his apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting due to the honor of being able to present Chisholm Senior Ben Thompson with the AAA Award for the MSHSL for our subsection in Duluth.

Mayor Lantz did not have a report.

Ambulance Director Larson reported that Chisholm Ambulance was inspected by the EMSRB for the part-time ALS license. Everything seems to have gone well. They are now waiting for the board to pass the part-time ALS License on March 21st, then the 5 paramedics on staff will be able to perform work as a paramedic.

Fire Chief Masucci was absent due to a joint training in French with the DNR.

Police Chief Manner was absent.

City Building Official Galli was absent.

City Engineer Johnson reported that there will be a preconstruction conference for the 5th Street South infrastructure project Wednesday March 6th at 11:00 am at City Hall. He encouraged residents to set up getting their sewer lines televised. He reminded everyone that there are penalties and that there is extra money being spent due to clean water going into the sanitary sewer system. Residents can call Denise at City Hall, phone number 218-254-7905. The Public Safety Building is coming together, it is evident where people will be sitting, walls are going up, most of the piping and sheetrock is done. The exterior is beautiful and taking shape. They are at 77% completion, likely to move in June.

Public Works Supervisor did not have a report.

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Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska reported that she and administrator Skraba attended the ACE Engineering Awards in St. Paul where Redhead won and award (up to 5 now) Barr Engineering won two awards for the engineering work on Redhead the Grand and the People's Choice award. Now Pete Kero from Barr will be attending the National Awards in Washington DC for Redhead projects. An RFP will come to council at the next meeting to go out for bids for trail builders on the expansion through LCCMR. The ice rink is now closed since the ice is not functional. Soccer sign-up starts next week.

Library Supervisor Christenson reported that Chisholm 4th graders came to the library to wrap up their participation in the winter reading program where they read a story, checked out books and made a button they designed and took home. They had a 125 people participate in the reading program. The tax prep went very well, in the month of February they had 48 people file their taxes, the schedule is booked through march but they have some availability on April 4th and April 11th. There is not restriction on age or income, just call the library to make an appointment. City Attorney did not have a report.

Clerk-Treasurer Zah reported that in regards to the election, they have a public accuracy testing event tomorrow morning at 9:00 am at City Hall Council Chambers where they will be testing the voting tabular equipment as well as the OmniBallot. The public is welcome. City Hall will be open on Saturday March 2nd extended hours from 9:00am to 3:00pm to receive and process absentee ballots. The City Hall will be open on March 4th until 5:00pm for the remaining absentee ballots. Tuesday March 5th the Presidential Primary Election voting will take place at Chisholm Arena from 7:00am to 8:00pm. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will take place in April. She will have something for council at the next meeting.

Administrator Skraba reported that CTC services will be moving forward for the internet, WIFI, and telephone service. The new camera contractor will be moving forward too. A few representatives of the city will be going to the capital to attend the St. Louis County-Duluth Days as well as the League of Minnesota Cities at the Capital.

APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to Approve the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting and February 14, 2024 Working Session, Payroll and Overtime.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake

Motion Carried

POST FOR 2024 SEASONAL LABOR

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the Posting for 2024 Seasonal Labor and to include the wage of \$12.50-\$15.50 on the posting.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake

Motion Carried

HIRE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES 2024 SEASONAL LABOR

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the hiring of qualified candidates for the 2024 seasonal labor.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake

Motion Carried

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE CSRP SPECIALIST

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the job description for the CSRP Specialist.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake

Motion Carried

JOB POSTING FOR THE CSRP SPECIALIST

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the posting for the CSRP Specialist positions and to correct the date to year 2024.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake

Motion Carried

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HIRING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE CSRP SPECIALIST

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve hiring up to 9 qualified candidates for the CSRP Specialist position.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

AMEND LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the amendments to the Library Collection Development Policy.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

PAY EQUITY REPORT

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Pay Equity Report.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

REQUEST TO PURCHASE LOT -WANDA CLEMENT

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to table to request to purchase 307 4th Street NW, Chisholm, Mn. 55719.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0224-26 ENROLLMENT INTO THE AARP'S NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES FOR THE CITY OF CHISHOLM

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt Resolution Number 0224-26 Enrollment into the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities for the City of Chisholm.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

SCHEDULE A WORKING SESSION FOR STRONG TOWNS ON MARCH 12, 2024

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to schedule a working session for Strong Towns Council Briefing on March 12, 2024 at 4:00pm at the Senior Center.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: Councilor Holewa
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Councilors Fountain and Vake Motion Carried

Attest:

/s/ Adam Lantz, Mayor

/s/ Stephanie Skraba, Administrator