

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 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: Administrator Stephanie Skraba, City Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Police Chief Vern Manner, Fire Chief Chris Masucci, Building Official Mandy Galli, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Bridgit Maruska, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Marie Tolonen from The Mesabi Tribune, Eric Tweten from Mesabi Community TV, John Jannick from JPJ Engineering, AFSME Union members.

**ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Fountain to adopt the agenda with the following additions: Tennesen Warning -goes with FMLA Documents. Correction: January 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minute correction to application for Library Board.

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**

City of Chisholm Employees Scott Oberstar, Leonard Pahule, Kristi Castagneri and Labor Representative Leanne Stoll expressed their opinions about ongoing labor negotiations, how they think the negotiating team feels about them, their feelings about past contracts, and how they would like to be met where they are at.

**REPORTS**

Councilor Halverson reported that he attended the MnDOT highway 169 open house, Campground Committee, meeting about flooding at Redhead Mountain Bike Park and Mesabi Trail. They will be meeting again next week with IRRR and the DNR. He also attended the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Board meeting.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja, no report.

Councilor Fountain expressed it was nice to see her union brothers and sisters there and that she appreciated them being there. She also reported she attended the Campground Committee meeting where they discussed future plans and grant possibilities for the future. February is “I Love to Read Month” and Councilor Fountain encouraged everyone to sign up for the “Yeti Winter Reading Program”. It is “Love your Library Month”.

Councilor Vake reported that he just came from a Community Foundation meeting and is happy to report they have raised more than \$265,000 for the David Tomassoni Memorial that will be part of the bridge. Polar days have kicked off today and Sled the City will be on February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 4 pm. The city crew will be building the hill. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the event.

Councilor Holewa reported that he attended the EDA and MnDOT meetings. One of the top things he heard from the citizens was that concerns about drugs in the community. He will be doing some ride-a-longs with Chisholm Police Officers next week. He remarked that he is deeply disturbed and downright angry with public land order 7917 which allows the Federal Government to put a 20-year moratorium and band mining on 225,504 acres in superior national Forest. This directly affects all Iron Range cities and schools and he is tired the attacks on mining, that mining is our past, present and future up here. That we need to diversify and protect our way of life. Hibbing taconite alone pumps \$449 million each year into the local economy. Imagine how our cities would prosper if mining expanded? He encouraged everyone to please call your house representative, state senator and congressman.

Mayor Lantz reported they had their Fire Department Meeting. Mayor Lantz congratulated and thanked Billy Temple for 12 years of service to the community. Mr. Temple is the Captain of the Department and a true leader. The mayor also attended the MnDOT meeting, that their plan over the next 10 years is to put a roundabout in front of cash highway 67 and in front of the Discovery Center and close down the entrance to the industrial park when coming from the west. If MnDOT has money it could be in 4 years. He encouraged everyone with input to keep their ears open. He also attended the EDA meeting and Planning and Zoning meeting. The Planning and Zoning will have something for the council hopefully at the first meeting in March. The bid openings for the Public Safety Building were on January 26<sup>th</sup> and he hopes to have something for it at the next Council Meeting.

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Mayor Lantz addressed the AFSCME members, stating he is upset that they do not think they are not appreciated and thinks that they would not find another City Council, staff or community that stands up for its public works as much as they do and is sorry, they got that feeling. He hopes that things can get fixed. The City Ambulance Director starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. The State recently came for inspection of Chisholm Ambulance and it did very well.

Interim Ambulance Director Peyton Johnson, absent.

Fire Chief Masucci, no report.

Police Chief Manner, no report.

City Building Official/Zoning Galli, no report.

City Engineer Johnson, no report.

Public Works Supervisor Folstad no report.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska, no report.

Library Supervisor Christenson, no report.

City Attorney Lindsay no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Zah, absent.

Administrator Skraba, no report.

**ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to Accept the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the January 25, 2023, Payroll and Overtime.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**FMLA POLICY**

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to approve the FMLA Policy.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM FIRE FIGHTER PATRICK EIDE**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to accept the resignation of Fire Fighter Patrick Eide and to send him a thank you letter.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**CITY WIDE FESTIVAL ON FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to declare a City-Wide Festival on February 25, 2023 for Sled the City.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Halverson to recess to a closed session in compliance with Statute 13D.05 Labor Agreement.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

The Closed Session was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

The Regular Council Meeting was reconvened at 7:22 pm.

**ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:22 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