

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 14, 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, Fire Chief Chris Masucci, Building Official/Zoning/Safety Director Mandy Galli, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Attorney Bryan Lindsay (arrived at 5:48 pm) 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 addition of Resolution Number 0623-38 PERA Resolution for Nicholas Nobens, Resolution Number 0623-39 New Housing Development Bonding Request with MN Management Budget Office. Correction to Pay Application #3 and moving items 7A, 7B, and 7E to be listed under Administrator Skraba.

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Halverson

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

REPORTS

Councilor Halverson reported that he attended a Park Board Meeting and preparation at Redhead Mountain Bike Park for the Minnesota Mountain Bike Series.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja reported that she attended the ground breaking ceremony and attended a Police Commission Meeting.

Councilor Fountain reported that on June 6th she attended the ground breaking ceremony for the Public Safety Building, noting it was a beautiful day and beautiful speech, complementing Mayor Lantz. She also attended the Ms. Chisholm Pageant and gave a shout out and congratulations to Jaicee Koehler, Amya Fontaine, and Jessalyn Podlogar. She also presented a poster and invited the community to the Hibbing Juneteenth celebration on June 20th on the Hibbing City Hall lawn from 4 to 7.

Councilor Vake reported that he was also at the Public Safety Building opening on June 6th, which is fantastic for this community and decades in the making and glad they could make it happen. He also plugged the ambulance service, big thank you to that service. Further commenting that when Marty, Adam and he sat down and started the process of transitioning that to the city, transfers were something they talked about and now are there. They have had exponential growth, have a spot in the public safety building, hiring another person tonight, and that it is incredible to see. He said that they have made waves and that is why they get a new person almost every meeting. Councilor Vake will also be that Juneteenth event and when the Mayor is done in the dunk tank, it will be his turn. There are strong numbers for softball, five women's teams, six men's teams, they almost had a 7th team, but that gets tricky with only one set of lights, and that it is going strong on Wednesdays and Thursdays. He also attended a Community Foundation Meeting, and wanted to plug their golf scramble on Monday July 24th. The inaugural Bluestreaks scramble is August 3rd and is a school sponsored golf scramble at Wolf Ridge. He hopes they get good numbers for that too. Other events include the Hug Extravaganza raffle tickets on July 22nd and the Chamber is doing a Fast Speed raffle that is coming in August. Councilor Holewa reported that he also attended the ground breaking on June 6th, and thanked the Mayor for his speech. He also attended the EDA Working Session and a Lunch and Learn on workforce housing. He said that he had the pleasure of speaking with someone who is staying at the campground who rated the campground 10 out of 10, was very satisfied, and complemented on the friendly faces.

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Mayor Lantz thanked everyone in regards to the Public Safety Building ground breaking event for their kind words and he acknowledged the council and staff supporting it, that it has been a lot of work over a long period of time, and something we should all be proud of. He congratulated Assistant Fire Chief Jason Worlie for 15 years of service to the community. Mayor Lantz sat in on the Mine Land Vision Partnership where they celebrated their 25th anniversary and MDC had a press conference announcing the \$1.6 million for the LCCMR that is now underway. He said that listening to all the groups he noticed their visions are almost unanimously talking about future generations and leaving it better than we found it. He also said it is great seeing the champions of our communities working through and the successes that we are having.

Ambulance Director Tiffany was absent.

Fire Chief Masucci did not have a report.

Police Chief Manner was absent.

City Building Official/Zoning Galli reported that there are 81 building permits, a total value of \$11, 566, 628.00. The largest portion of that is the Public Safety Building, however there is 2 to 3 million dollars left that is residential, commercial development and rehab throughout the community. They are very busy.

City Engineer Johnson did not have a report.

Public Works Supervisor Folstad reported that they are grading alleys and adding materials and it is going well. The street sweeper is fixed and working on the south side of town. Water and sewer crews have the water up to the splash pad area. As they continue to work with the Chamber and Director Maruska, the tentative opening will be close to August 1st as they work through permitting. They are fully staffed with summer employees. One employee is a person who has disabilities and is supported through a state program. The individual is doing great, has lots of Chisholm Pride, and is a joy to talk to. There is a valve leaking near the Public Safety Building site. Supervisor Folstad consulted with the City Engineer Johnson to obtain a county permit so they can dig on the county road tomorrow.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska was absent.

Library Supervisor Christenson was absent.

Attorney Lindsay did not have a report.

Clerk-Treasurer Zah reported that she confirmed that the auditors will be here the week of June 26th. They have a spot set up next to Administrator Skraba's office. The auditors plan to be here doing their field work for about 2 to 2 ½ weeks. Staff are preparing for their visit gathering documentation. Clerk-Treasurer Zah, along with Administrator Skraba and department heads have been attending Adolf and Peterson updates on the Public Safety Building project. It has been a really good platform for them to communicate detailed information and for the City to ask questions and gather information. Clerk-Treasurer Zah and Administrator Skraba have been working closely in finalizing all the Public Safety Building financial resources with the influx of the unexpected amount received from the State General Fund. She said that it has been a lot of fun to analyze the numbers. She gave a shout out to the Department Heads on the relationship and collaboration that they are doing with each other. She also gave credit to the accounting staff, Misti, Denise, and Kristi who when the city has experienced issues with the phones and people have had strong words about not being able to make contact with the department, the accounting team have been professional and Clerk-Treasurer Zah appreciates that. She said maybe it is a coupling of summer time, everyone is in a good mood, enjoying this time of year, but also thinks it is all of the departments rising to the occasion and working well together as a result of the leadership in place, and her name is Stephanie. On a personal level, she is a participant on the sand volley ball league. She really appreciates the opportunity that presents to interact with the community.

Administrator Skraba reported that they have been working diligently with the financials, getting all the projects in place that are currently being worked on and planning for future bonding requests which are due on Friday for 2024 bonding. They have been identifying the priorities and seeking additional funding for some more projects. The Public Safety Building Groundbreaking ceremony went great. They are working on the dirt work at the site, there are a lot of rocks and it is taking longer than was anticipated but still working diligently through that process. There is a sign being made for the Iron Range Engineering building to name the building the *Senator David Tomassoni Building -Iron Range Engineering* in memory of the late Senator. It is a great name for the building, he did a lot of great work for our community and for education. It will be coming up and done around the end of June.

Mayor Lantz reported that the timeline for the ground breaking is 2-3 weeks for excavating, weeks 4 to 6 will be footings, and after that they will be breaking into concrete.

APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to Accept the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the May 24, 2023, Regular Meeting with the correction to include the item regarding sending Councilor Vake to speak as a representative of the City Council in Support of Mineral Leases to Cleveland Cliffs Hibbing Taconite.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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RESOLUTION NUMBER 0623-36 TODD REINKE SURVEY

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to approved the adoption of Resolution Number 0623-36 Todd Reinke Survey.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PAY APPLICATION NUMBER 3 FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve Pay Application Number 3 in the amount of \$ 82,901.00 to Adolfson & Peterson Construction.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE CONTRACT FOR UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP 59-21

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to approve the 2024 Fire Protection Contract for Unorganized Township 59-21 with St. Louis County for \$19,199.00 (7% increase).

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

LODGING TAX ADMINISTRATION

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to cancel the joint powers agreement for lodging tax with the City of Eveleth .

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

LODGING TAX ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITY

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Holewa to have the City of Chisholm handle the City of Chisholm's lodging taxes per ordinance.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

HIRE LUKE GRUHLKE AS EMT

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola Rahja to hire Luke Gruhlke as EMT for Chisholm Ambulance.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RAFFLE APPROVAL

The Gambling Commission approved St. Joseph's Catholic Church to hold a raffle on October 14, 2023 and for the Chisholm Chamber to hold a raffle on July 24, 2023, Bingo on August 2, 2023, and raffle on August 17th, 2023. This was informational only presented by Administrator Skraba on behalf of Chief Manner.

ALTERNATE SEGMENT OF CHISHOLM-HIBBING ATV TRAIL

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the alternate Segment of Chisholm-Hibbing ATV Trail.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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AFSCME MOU FOR LIBRARY TECHNICIAN II

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to approve the MOU between the City of Chisolm and AFSCME to change the classification for the current employees holding Library Aide Position to Library Technician II.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0623-37 CITY PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE BONDING REQUEST

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt Resolution Number 0623-37 authorizing the City Administrator to file an application with the Minnesota Management and Budget Office for the purpose of a new City Public Works Garage.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0623-38 PERA RESOLUTION FOR NICHOLAS NOBENS

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to adopt Resolution Number 0623-38 PERA Police Officer Declaration for Nicholas Nobens.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0623-39 NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BONDING REQUEST

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt Resolution Number 0623-39 authorizing the City Administrator to file an application with the Minnesota Management and Budget Office for the purpose of infrastructure for new single family housing development.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

REQUEST FOR A CAR SHOW AND CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL ON JULY 1, 2023

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to approve Martin Motors request to have a car show and declare a city-wide festival on July 1, 2023.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

JIM'S SPORTS CLUB REQUEST TO LIFT NOISE ORDINANCE ON JULY 22, 2023

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve lifting the Noise Ordinance on July 22, 2023 until 11:00 pm for the Hug Extravaganza.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

CCF GOLF SCRAMBLE DONATION TO ADVERTISING

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the use of Gambling Revenue to provide \$1000.00 for advertisement to the Chisholm Community Foundation for the Golf Scramble on July 24, 2023.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

LIBRARY BOARD REPORT

Councilor Fountain reported on behalf of Library Supervisor Christenson that the summer reading program at the Chisholm Library is called "Find Your Voice". It started on Monday June 5th, and will run for 6 weeks until July 14th. All ages are welcome. On June 7th there was a summer reading kickoff party with 108 kids and 47 adults where they did crafts, had snacks and did book readings. On June 8th there was story time with Chione, sponsored by the Minnesota Arts and Heritage Fund. On June 21st they are going to have Climb Theater, The Ant and the Giant Grasshopper, a mini play that supports literacy and reading readiness. She encourages everyone to come out and sign up for the summer reading program, earn prizes, tickets and incentives.

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RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to recess the Regular Meeting to a Closed Session at 6:45 p.m. due to (319 3rd Ave NW) (this portion of the meeting may be closed pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13d.03(b) to receive attorney-client privileged information)
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to adjourn the Closed Session at 6:33 pm.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:34 pm.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0623-40 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt Resolution Number 0623-40 Authorizing and Approving Settlement Agreement with Residential Properties Resources Fund.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried

ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:35 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