

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 10, 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, City Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Ambulance Director Tiffany Larson, Police Chief Vern Manner, Building Official/Zoning/Safety Director Mandy Galli, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Bridgit Maruska, Library Supervisor Katie Christenson, Clerk-Treasurer Eileen Zah, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Eric Tweten from Mesabi Community TV, and Bobbi McCarthy for Public Participation.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to adopt the agenda with the addition of a request from VEMA for a Juneteenth Celebration.

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

Bobbi McCarthy talked about the collapsed sewer pipe at her home. The pipe needed to be replaced and was told it is located across the street. The street had to be dug up and she is now responsible for over 15 thousand dollars in repair. She asked why Chisholm has different rules regarding who is responsible for sewer pipes compared to other towns.

REPORTS

Councilor Halverson reported that he attended the Park Board meeting, the well-attended Strong Towns event (he encouraged everyone to get involved), met with MnDOT regarding Highway 73, and was out at Redhead Mountain Bike Park getting ready for the season opener that he thinks will happen in the next few days.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja reported that she attended the Strong Towns meeting also and agrees that it was well attended, she also encourages everyone to participate and that it seems it will be very informative.

Councilor Fountain wished everyone a happy National Nurses Week. There is a Mother's Day Luncheon at Jim's Sports Club. Bark's Design is hiring a graphic designer. Honor the Students Pow Wow for students at the Discovery Center on May 13th at 2:00 pm. The Rustic Pig at the Discovery Center is starting their Thursday evening BBQ, Brews, and Bands on June 1st. It is free to attend. Community Education still has Safety Town openings June 5th-16th and ATV class for ages 10-15.

Councilor Vake reported that he just came from a Community Foundation Meeting and that on May 18th there is a community fundraiser 1950's style sock hop burger bash. Tickets are available from CCF members or get them at Jim's and Keyboard. The Chamber meeting had a great time last Friday at the fundraiser. Kiwanis purse bingo for the splash pad is on Thursday at Valentini's. He believes that the splash pad will be put in mid-June.

Councilor Holewa reported that he attended the EDA meeting and the Strong Towns Action Labs meeting. He met with Phil Norvitch from St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District and toured the city looking at storm sewers, geese reduction and discussed developing a storm water action plan. Councilor Holewa participated in the EMS highway cleanup, the Wenton addition meeting, and the recent reconvened Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Mayor Lantz reported that there are a lot of well attended events in town. He encouraged everyone to look up Strong Towns, that we definitely need community engagement and that is what makes us successful. He also attended the meeting with St. Louis County Conservation walking around looking at storm sewers and that it is definitely a topic that needs to be addressed. He thanked Jed, the PUC and Larry for setting the meeting up. He attended the MnDOT meeting where there is a lot of interest in the corridor with work there as soon as 2027.

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Mayor Lantz also attended the ground breaking at Detroit Diesel which is now showing a return on investment with another 30–60-thousand-square foot addition. Lots of new employees and new technology such as reusing the batteries from electric vehicles to retain energy from solar panels instead of burying them somewhere. He was welcomed at the Sportsman Banquet and went to the Welcome to Hibbing Chisholm Area put on by the Hibbing Chamber for new people in the area. The Fire Department had their meeting last Wednesday. Mayor Lantz would like to congratulate Shay Temple for one year on the department and his second child, Mike Nadeau for 11 years on the department, and Stephanie Holewa for 17 years on the department.

Ambulance Director Tiffany had no report.

Fire Chief Masucci was absent due to a DNR training where they are landing a chopper out at the fairgrounds.

Police Chief Manner reported that Officer Chamernick has retired effective the end of April. Police Chief Manner thanked Officer Chamernick for his 29 years of dedicated service. In response to Councilor Holewa question about blight complaints, Chief Manner said they are interviewing for the CSO position next week and officers are doing some preliminary work. In response to calendar parking complaints, Chief Manner reminded everyone that calendar parking is year-round.

City Building Official/Zoning Galli had no report.

City Engineer Johnson had no report.

Public Works Supervisor Folstad had no report.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska reported that Summer Rec program is opening in June and they are currently taking reservations for the 7-week quality program that takes place at the curling club for only \$75. Volley ball sign ups need to be in by May 19th, and Bocce ball has a few teams left that can be filled in on the men's and women's teams. Redhead Mountain Bike Park may be opening tomorrow with one trail closed at part of the North Star loop. Spectators and volunteers are welcome on June 4th when there will be a mountain bike race. Contact Director Maruska for more information. The Youth Center's last day will be Thursday, celebrated with a party and give aways. Next year they will be partnering with the library for virtual reality programming.

Library Supervisor Christenson had no report.

Attorney Lindsay had no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Zah reported that the letters are now all sent to the appellants which is part of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. Those letters fulfill the city portion of that process. Department heads, Administrator Skraba and Clerk-Treasurer Zah are diligently working on capital improvement 5-year plans as well as some upcoming budget amendments that will be presented at the next council meeting. She and Administrator Skraba are communicating almost daily about the public safety building and the resources required to pay for it.

Administrator Skraba reported that the public safety building is getting close and we may see some demolition work being done as early as next week and some site preparation for the building to be built.

ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to Accept the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the April 18, 2023 LBAE Meeting, April 26, 2023 Reconvened LBAE Meeting, April 26, 2023 Regular Meeting, and May 2, 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

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 153.25

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the second reading of the Ordinance Amending City Code 153.25

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Fountain

Absent: None

Motion Carried

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 153.251

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the second reading of the Ordinance Amending City Code 153.251

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

Voting Nay: Councilor Fountain

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
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ALLEY VACATION ON BLOCK 31 OF CHISHOLM ADDITION

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Fountain to approve an Alley Vacation on Block 31 of Chisholm Addition.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

CAMPGROUND HOST AGREEMENT

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Campground Host Agreement.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

MAPE LABOR AGREEMENT

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to approve the MAPE Labor Agreement.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

AFSCME LABOR AGREEMENT

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the AFSCME Labor Agreement.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SUSAN TRUNK'S CONTRACT

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk's contract.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RACHEL ANDRIA'S CONTRACT

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Confidential Administrative Assistant Rachel Andria's contract with a correction under Sick Leave Bonus added language: "The sick leave payout will be by separate check and paid to Employee in conjunction with the first pay period of January. This election will follow and be administered in the same way as the terms of the collective bargaining agreement currently in force between the City and MAPE Local #1401 which shall also control as it relates to the creation, existence, and administration of the HCSP".

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

MN DOT AGREEMENT 1048700 ART RIGHT OF WAY

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Fountain to approve the MnDOT Agreement 1048700 Right of Way.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

MN DOT AGREEMENT 1048700 ART RIGHT OF WAY RESOLUTION

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the MnDOT Agreement 1048700 Right of Way Resolution.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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WENDEL FIVE BUGLES ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the Wendel Five Bugles Administrative Contract
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: Councilor Vake
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0523-29 PURCHASE OF AIRWAY BAR/RESTAURANT
BUILDING AND LAND**

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt Resolution Number 0523-29 approving the purchase of the land and building commonly known as Airway Bar and Restaurant by the Chisholm/Hibbing Airport Authority.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 0523-30 PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 2023 AS
MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Fountain to adopt Resolution Number 0523-30 proclaiming May 2023 as Mental Health Month.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

SUSPEND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to suspend Council Meetings on June 28, July 26, and August 23, 2023.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: Councilor Holewa
Absent: None Motion Carried

**VEMA REQUEST FOR CITY WIDE FESTIVAL AND STREET CLOSURE FOR
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to declare a city-wide festival, street closures from 2nd Avenue to the alley past Kiwanis Park from 9am to 4pm, and the city will assist with filling the dunk tank on April 18, 2023.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Vake, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

**AMEND PREVIOUS APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURES FOR TOM & JERRY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to amend the street closure for Tom and Jerry's 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 22, 2023 to be: Lake Street from Snickers to Freedom Gas station (the 100 and 200 blocks) and the south side of 2nd Ave. half block between Tom and Jerry's and Bark Design.
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 Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:50 pm.
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz
Voting Nay: None
Absent: None Motion Carried

Attest:

Adam Lantz, Mayor

Stephanie Skraba, Administrator