

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 11, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President 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 April Fountain, Marty Halverson (arrived at 5:32), Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja, Adam Lantz, and Travis Vake
Absent: Mayor John Champa

Also present: Administrator Stephanie Skraba, Attorney Colleen Kosluchar with Trenti Law Firm, Fire Chief Chris Masucci, Police Chief Vern Manner, Building Official Mandy Galli, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Administrative Assistant Margaret Gornick, Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Steve Rahkola with Mesabi Community TV, Chet Fishel with Chisholm Health Care Center, Attorney Mia Thibodeau with Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., and Matt Koshmrl

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt the agenda with:

Deletions: Item 7 B. 1) Post Lead Buildings/Maintenance/Parks position externally.

Addition: Signature page for Agenda item #7 C1) Ord. No. Chap. 53 “Public & Private Sewers”

Councilors Mikkola-Rahja and Councilor Vake amended their motion and support to add the resignation letter from Fire Fighter Cody Lundin.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Matt Koshmrl addressed the council regarding an incident that occurred last Tuesday when his dog was attacked by a Pitbull that resulted in the death of his dog Molly. On the day of the incident, he filed a police report. The other dog was taken to Precious Paws Humane Society of Chisholm then returned to the owner, Sarah Livingston. Mr. Koshmrl reported that his understanding was that the dog came from California where the dog was to be euthanized there. The dog did not appear to have proof of license or rabies shots. Mr. Koshmrl wanted to know if there was an ordinance regarding dogs and if not if one could be established. Police Chief Vern Manner responded that there is a dangerous and potentially dangerous dog ordinance. There is also a State Statute regarding dangerous dogs. Law Enforcement Officers served the owner with dangerous dog paperwork and the dog will need to be relocated outside of the City of Chisholm. Law Enforcement is aware of the issue and will follow up with the owner. Councilor Halverson commented that he had a similar situation about 17 years ago when he was almost mauled by a dog.

REPORTS

Councilor Fountain attended the Community Education meeting on April 25th where they reviewed the many summer programs offered by Community Education. The public is welcome to go to the Community Education website found on the city’s high school website or the Community Education Facebook page. She also attended the Local Board of Appeals & Equalization (LBAE) and a working session on Monday May 5th. Councilor Halverson attended a working session via Zoom with Rock Solid and Administrator Skraba where they discussed the work scope for agenda item G 4) Proposal from Rock Solid Trails for the Redhead Mountain Bike Park. He also participated in Zoom meetings regarding the public safety building design and was at the Local Board of Appeals & Equalization meeting (LBAE); two working sessions and a park board meeting.

Councilor Lantz had no report but built on what other councilor members reported.

Things are moving along nicely on the Public Safety Building. He feels this is the closest on the design and he hopes to see this through.

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Councilor Vake expressed his condolences to Matt Koshmrl about the loss of his dog. His family experienced the loss of their cat due to a vicious dog attack a few years ago. He welcomed the new Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk and thanked her for joining our team. He thanked everyone on behalf of the Kiwanis for supporting the fund raiser for the splash pad. Kiwanis is well on their way to getting the splashpad equipment. It will be ordered once Larry Folstad (Public Works Supervisor) finds available space to store the equipment. The pasta feed went well at Valentini's and he thanked those who supported the fundraiser event. Information on the fall Kiwanis raffle will be out soon. He is in charge of the Miss Chisholm event. The Miss Chisholm Coronation is sponsored by the Kiwanis and will be held at the Discovery Center on May 26th. Sand volley ball will start on Mondays, the first week of June and needs additional teams. He is also in charge of softball - Wednesday is the women's league and Thursday is the men's league with room to grow if teams want to join. He is happy and proud to say that he had his first couple of shifts on the ambulance service. He is very excited to be part of the team. He thanked Ambulance Director/Emergency Manager Jess Davis for believing that he can do it.

Ambulance Director Jess Davis announced that May 15th through the 21st is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) week. She thanked our Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and the council members who serve on the ambulance service. The EMTs are kicking off the week by doing a city clean-up to celebrate community, servitude, and EMS week as a whole. They are continuing to run all of our calls. There had been a little slow down but things are beginning to pick back up again.

Fire Chief Chris Masucci reported that there were 65 calls for the month of April, which is way above their normal number of calls. At this pace they will be at 190 calls for the year which is ridiculous but is what it is. They had a fire department banquet two weeks ago for the first time in three years at Valentini's. The had a great turnout and everyone had a good time. They saw a lot of retirees that they hadn't seen in a while. Two weeks ago, six Fire Department members including Councilor Lantz, went to Rush City to attend advanced search and rescue training put on by some of the top instructors in the Midwest and is a great benefit to them. The fire department received a grant to be used for hands-on Hazmat training that will take place next week over by the industrial park. They did some controlled burns along highway 169 that will help to beautify the city and make it green up nicely.

Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson will receive bids one week from today at 10:00 a.m. for the 5th Street SE infrastructure project and will bring recommendations back to council in two weeks. Larry Folstad and Jim received a work plan from MN Energy and a map of the four areas around town (mostly in the new quadrant of the city) where they will be looking at gas line/service line replacement. He made copies of the map and distributed them in the council member's mail boxes.

Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad had item 7B 1) to post externally for the Lead Buildings/Maintenance/Parks position removed from the agenda. This position was filled internally. He will bring something back to them in the future, hopefully at the next council meeting. The burn that that was done by Fire Chief, Chris Masucci and his staff near the east entrance looks really nice and has greened up beautifully. A bunch of casual laborers will start next week. Summer is finally here and they will be mowing the end of next week. The cemetery is really busy, as it has been a long winter and there is a lot of business to be done out there. They started hanging the Nation's flags today and are half way done. The United States flags will be put up tomorrow. The geese buoys/flashers will be put out on the lake hopefully by the end of the day Friday that will help with the geese. He thinks it is working even though it takes time to get rid of the geese. The alley repair crew will start on Monday, weather permitting. They have a list of alleys that were roto-tilled last year and they will add some fill. They have a sewer project going on at the camp grounds. They are sold out of their seasonal spots due to high demand. They will add some more sewer lines to the water sites and should be done by the middle of next week when the summer casuals start with their regular work. Attorney Colleen Kosluchar with Trenti Law was asked by City Attorney Bryan Lindsay to give the council and the community an update on the last remaining trailer home that is located at the Iron Trail Campground. The tenants had been served with a Notice to Vacate in March and it was due in the beginning of May. Attorney Lindsay had been in contact with the tenant's wife, she had requested additional time and that time has passed. Attorney Lindsay prepared an eviction complaint to start the court process. That process can take possibly two to three weeks. Attorneys are still hopeful that the tenants will get out on their own in the meantime. Basically, a summary of the process looks like this: once the complaint is filed, the court has to give the attorney a summons and we need to make sure the summons is properly served. There are specific requirements on serving a summons. Personal service is best. If this is not possible, there are other options. The tenants must be served 7 days (in person) prior to the eviction hearing. At the hearing, typically if we are successful, which they expect to be, they would ask them to vacate within 24 hours of the hearing.

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The tenants can ask the court for up to an additional 7 days if they can prove a substantial hardship. Attorney Kosluchar said they are looking at about 3 weeks if we go this route. The tenants have made some efforts to try to find alternative housing. The attorneys will keep with the court process to keep the process moving. Clerk-Treasurer Eileen Zah acknowledged Mr. Koshmrl and extended her sympathies to him and his family. She announced some important dates for this year's election. Tuesday, May 17th the candidates filing begins. Tuesday, May 31st is the last day a candidate can file. City Hall will be open until 5:00 p.m. on this day to receive applications. Thursday, June 2nd is the last day a candidate can withdraw. She has been working with Administrator Skraba in the last week or so to present financial data to the council. That collaboration has gone very well and she is really excited about the direction we are heading as a city. She expressed that it feels really good that the council members and city staff are working together and are on the same level as far as the goals that they trying to accomplish. She is excited and thankful for that and looks forward to progressing the goals that they set. Administrator Stephanie Skraba recognized the loss of Mr. Koshmrl's dog and is sorry that it happened. She hopes we can move forward with the process with the other dog that Police Chief Manner explained at the beginning of the council meeting. She gave recognition to Eileen Zah, who completed a double masters which is a huge accomplishment.

ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to accept the Consent Agenda, including the List of Bills, Minutes of the previous April 19, 2022 Working Session, April 27, 2022 Public Hearing, April 27, 2022 Regular Meeting, and May 4, 2022 Special Meeting, Payroll and Overtime.
Voting Aye: All Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 0522-55 ACCEPT RADIO DONATION FROM
HENNEPIN COUNY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (HCSO)**

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Fountain to accept the donation of (5) XTS1500 portable radios and (8) XTS2500 portable radios along with certain parts and accessories which support those radios to the City of Chisholm Ambulance Service for their use. A letter of thanks will be sent to the Hennepin County Sheriff's office.
Voting Aye: All Motion Carried

**SECOND READING, 3RD SERIES, CITY ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 53
OF THE CITY CODE "PUBLIC & PRIVATE SEWERS"**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to accept the second reading and to adopt the amended changes to Chapter 53 of the City Code 3rd Series of Ordinances for "Public and Private Sewers". The most significant change/addition paragraphs F, G, and the last paragraph in section 53.33 "Sump Pump/Foundation Drain Tile Regulations".
Voting Aye: All Motion Carried

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR 3RD ST. NW. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve Change Order No. 1 for the 3rd St. NW improvement project. The price of asphalt oil price increase from \$410 to \$570 per short ton resulting in a price increase of \$8.25 per ton of bituminous wear yet to be applied, estimated total cost increase of \$3341.25 (only to wear course not bituminous base).
Voting Aye: All Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 0522-56 ACCEPT DONATION FROM SCOTT JONES

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt Resolution No. 0522-56 to accept the monetary donation of \$752.00 from Scott Jones and to earmark the funds to help with the fishing pier replacement project, and/or to provide a Porta John at the new fishing pier, or to help with any other improvements to the fishing docks on the lake. A letter of thanks will be sent to Scott Jones.
Voting Aye All Motion Carried

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**RESOLUTION NO. 0522-57 TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON FINANCING
AND REFINANCING PROJECTS FOR THE CHISHOLM HEALTH CENTER**

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt Resolution No. 0522-57 to schedule a Public Hearing on June 8, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. for financing and refinancing projects for the Chisholm Health Center and to publish the notice for the hearing in the Mesabi Tribune.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 0522-58 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO MAKE
APPLICATION TO AND ACCEPT COMMERCIAL REDEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS
FROM THE IRRR**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to authorize the City Administrator to apply and to accept Commercial Redevelopment Grant funds from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for the internal demolition of 123 Lake Street, Chisholm, MN.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

**RECIND RESOLUTION NO. 0122-13 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CHISHOLM TO
REQUEST THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF LOT 8, BLOCK 13, CHISHOLM
THROUGH THE CONDITIONAL USE DEED PROCESS FOR A CITY PARK**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to rescind Resolution No. 0122-13 that was adopted by the Council on January 12, 2022 to adopt Resolution 0522-59 to transfer Lot 8, Block 13, to the City of Chisholm from Saint Louis County for the use of a City Park.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NO. 0522-59 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CHISHOLM TO REQUEST
THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF LOT 8, BLOCK 13, CHISHOLM THROUGH
THE CONDITIONAL USE DEED PROCESS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Fountain to adopt Resolution 0522-59 to transfer Lot 8, Block 13, to the City of Chisholm from Saint Louis County for the use of Economic Development.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

PROPOSAL FROM ROCK SOLID FOR THE REDHEAD MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to accept the proposal from Rock Solid Trails for phase 1 in the amount of \$4000.00 for planning and design. They will travel to the area on May 23 2022. Phase 2 in the amount of \$94,716.00 for construction will be according to the scope of the work plan identified in Phase 1. The total maintenance package is \$98,716.00. Construction will occur between June and September, 2022. These funds are coming out of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Warranty Trails grant that we received.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

**REQUEST FROM KELLY HARRIS-JIM'S SPORTS CLUB
TO LIFT NOISE ORDINANCE**

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Fountain to grant the request from Kelly Harris, Manager of Jim's Sports Club to lift the noise ordinance this summer on the following dates in the adjacent property to 108 West Lake Street on June 4th, June 18, June 25th, July 9th, August 27th and September 3rd from 8pm-12am.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

NORTHERN TRAXX ATV CLUB REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Fountain to grant the request of Northern Traxx to close two blocks of West Lake Street between the Keyboard Liquor driveway and the Freedom gas station driveway for 2 hours on May 21, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for the Spring Ride. They are expecting a huge turnout.

Voting Aye All

Motion Carried

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FISHING IN REDHEAD MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK PIT

Discussion took place on fishing and motorized vehicles in the Redhead Mountain bike park. No action was taken, this was an informational item at this time.

ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM FIRE FIGHTER CORY LUNDIN

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to accept the letter of resignation from Fire Fighter Cory Lundin dated May 3, 2022. A letter of thanks will be sent for his service.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

ADJOURN MEETING

Moved by Councilor Fountain supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

Attest:

/s/ John A. Champa, Mayor
Administrator

/s/ Stephanie Skraba,