

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 24, 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 (arrived at 6:08 pm), 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, Clerk-Treasurer Eileen Zah, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Eric Tweten from Mesabi Community TV, and Rick Kotula for Public Participation.

ADOPT THE AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to adopt the agenda with the additions of: Hire Tyler Nygaard as and employee for Ambulance, Transfer Pay for Ambulance (under Tiffany Larson, Ambulance Director), Braun proposal for inspection and testing (under Stephanie Skraba, City Administrator) Support for Mineral Leases to be awarded to Cleveland Cliffs-Hibbing Taconite (under Councilor Vake), and change: to the memo for Resolution No. 0523-32 City Obligation to Maintain & Operate Public Safety Building-add State General Funds of \$3,000,000.00 & Wendel Contract \$152,700.00.

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

Rick Kotula asked the City Council about the frequency of the noise ordinance being disregarded, expressed his concerns of distraction it may cause while driving, and the volume of the music. He asked if there could be a specific time where the music is turned down.

REPORTS

Councilor Halverson reported that he attended a Campground meeting.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja reported that she attended an HRA meeting last week.

Councilor Fountain reported that she attended a Library Board Meeting.

Councilor Holewa reported that he attended the Public Utilities meeting, Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer district meeting, and the Safety Committee meeting. He would like to speak to the Chamber's decision to promote Mesaba Metallic. He is not in support of this decision made by the Chamber, and by phone calls that he has received, he reported that lots of members of the community are very angry. He further noted that there are plenty of people who work, live and retired from there, he works for Hibbing Taconite, but as a representative of the city he is to protect the best interests of the City. He means no disrespect to anyone who works at Mesaba Metallic and understands anyone can join the Chamber no matter what. He said it is pure principle, why wasn't an educated decision made based on how this company has been a hindrance to the existence of Hib Tac. Hibbing Taconite pumps in more than \$450 million dollars a year into our local economy, overtime watches come from Snickers, meals come from Valentini's. He asked if anyone paid attention to the rally that was held last fall? He reviewed other contributions to the area for local food shelves and banks \$97,500 from year 2022 quarter one to 2023, the Golden Bears Basketball Foundation \$125,000, \$350,000 total for two years, Boys and Girls Club of Hibbing \$75,000, Blue Line Club \$25,000, Children's Dental \$10,000, Hibbing Tourists Center Seniors \$10,000, Ely Educational Foundation \$12,000, Finley Youth Program \$5,000, County Historical Society \$5,000, Northern Lights Music Festival \$5,000, and Chisholm Community Foundation \$10,000 as well as donating for the score board and gym. He commented that a better decision needed to be made on who is supported outside of this community. Furthermore, he believes that a lot more thought and education should go into this decision because lots of people are very angry out there.

Councilor Vake thanked the community for their part in the Kona Ice Fundraiser where they solely sponsored every student grade 4 through 12 by donations, which speaks volumes about this community. People talk about the support Chisholm community gives to businesses and schools including passing a referendum. It was phenomenal, the joy of getting a free treat was awesome

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Mayor Lantz wished everyone a happy EMS Week and thanked all the EMRs, EMTs, Paramedics and Directors/Chiefs out there. He extended a special thanks to Chisholm EMS past, present and future. He thanked them for what they have done, what they do, and what you are going to do in the future. He sent congratulations to Phil Olsen on his one-year anniversary with the Chisholm EMS Department. He commented on how Representative Lislegard worked his tail off for Chisholm.. In the fall of 2022, Representative Lislegard sat down with Administrator Skraba, Mayor Lantz and former Mayor Champa when Representative Lislegard was given a list of the city's priorities. Representative Lislegard came through with \$3 million towards the Public Safety Building, \$3 million towards the Chet Tomassoni Arena, \$2.04 million towards the improvement and renovation of City Hall for the movie studio, \$1.6 million for building out and improving Redhead, \$840 thousand tax exemption for the school project, \$500 thousand for trail maintenance at Redhead, \$220,690 local government aid contribution, \$207 thousand dollar in one-time public safety aid, and \$100 thousand to the Path Blazer Snowmobile Club. Mayor Lantz expressed his thanks to everyone in the legislative body that supported it and a special thanks to Representative Lislegard for his hard work and dedication to the Chisholm community. When Mayor Lantz talked to Representative Lislegard on Monday night, the only thing he could say was thank you and that Senator Tomassoni would be proud.

Ambulance Director Tiffany had no report.

Fire Chief Masucci was absent.

Police Chief Manner had no report.

City Building Official/Zoning Galli had no report.

City Engineer Johnson had no report.

Public Works Supervisor Folstad reported that the street sweeper is making its way through after the slow melt but is now out for maintenance. They have local help getting it back together and will have the streets swept up as soon as they can. The flags are all up.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska had no report.

Library Supervisor Christenson was absent.

Attorney Lindsay was not present at the time.

Clerk-Treasurer Zah reported that with the adoption of the MAPE and AFSCME union contracts Kristi has been working hard on calculating the back pays and accruals which was done this week. Administrator Skraba and Clerk-Treasurer Zah will begin their preparation for fiscal year 2024 budgeting next month. The Clerk Treasurer also put together a schedule for capital improvements with the initial compilation input from all the department heads so that there will be a good basis to the budgeting. She thanked the department heads for their contributions. In regards to all the wonderful funding that was received, she and Administrator Skraba have been preparing for and incorporating the new money and reconfiguring things. The auditors will be here doing their field work probably in late June. She reminded council to check their mail boxes that are in the lobby.

Administrator Skraba echoed what Mayor Lantz said, and that she was blown away Monday when she got the phone call on what the City of Chisholm was receiving. She sent a text to every department head that night to let them know what was going on. She expressed her thanks to Representative Lislegard and everyone else that worked hard for the City of Chisholm in this latest legislation and that it means a lot to everyone.

ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to Accept the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting, Payroll and Overtime.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

HIRE FOR AMBULANCE

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to hire Tyler Nygaard for the Ambulance.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

TRANSFER PAY

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to provide Transfer Pay to ambulance staff in the amount of \$1.50 per loaded mile on out-of-town transfers.

Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, and Fountain.

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: Councilors Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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TOM AND JERRY’S ANNIVERSARY CONTROL OF VENDORS

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to approve Tom and Jerry’s control of the vendors inside the controlled area during the June 24th, 2023 street dance.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

FISHING WITH VETS GAMBLING APPLICATION

Police Chief Manner provided information on the approval of a LG 220 Gambling Application for Fishing with Vets to hold raffles on September 16th, 2023. This was informational only.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0523-31 VACATION OF ALLEY WAYS

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Holewa to adopt Resolution Number 0523-31 certifying the vacation of alleyways located within Bock 31, Chisholm.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

REINKE CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to approve the Certificate of Survey of Todd Reinke, 128 8th Street NW, Chisholm.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PAY APPLICATION #1 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve Pay Application #1 from Adolfson & Peterson Construction for the Public Safety Building in the amount due of \$41,900.00.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

PAY APPLICATION #2 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve Pay Application #2 from Adolfson & Peterson Construction for the Public Safety Building in the amount due of \$294,834.87.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Clerk-Treasurer Zah presented the first round of FY 2023 Budget Amendments for the Ambulance Services, Library, Water Purification, Water Distribution, water Administration, Sewer lift Station, and Sewer Treatment Plant departments. This was informational only.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LEASE

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Miscellaneous Lease # LMIS010594 SWSW, S26, T58N, R20W, St. Louis County, non-motorized bike trail for a lease fee of \$500.00 for 10 years.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0523-32 CITY’S OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt Resolution Number 0523-32 City’s Obligation to Maintain and Operate the Public Safety Building with a correction to the memo body: “PSB Project Total (A-P Construction)” to read 11,199,947.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING CDBG FUNDING

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to Reject CDBG Funds for the Public Safety Building as the city is no longer eligible for the CDBG funds and needs to reject the \$75,000.00 that had been awarded.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0523-33 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE APPLICATION WITH MINNESOTA MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CITY ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to adopt Resolution Number 0523-33 authorizing the City Administrator to file application with Minnesota Management and Budget Office for the purpose of city road and infrastructure projects.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION NUMBER 0523-34 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Halverson to adopt Resolution Number 0523-34 authorizing the City Administrator to make application to the Iron Range Resources Development Infrastructure Grant Program.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

BRAUN INTERTEC PROPOSAL FOR INSPECTION AND TESTING

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Holewa to approve the proposal from Braun Intertec to provide special inspections and testing services for the Chisholm Public Safety Building.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

CITY FESTIVAL FOR 10TH ANNUAL SCHNORR MUDFEST, FISHING WITH VETS FUNDRAISER

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Fountain to declare a city-wide festival on Saturday, September 16, 2023 for the 10th Annual Schnorr Mudfest, Fishing with Vets Fundraiser.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

SCHEDULE A WORKING SESSION

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Halverson to schedule a Working Session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:30pm to discuss: private sewer & water pipes located in city street/alley right-of-way, 25-foot lots, Downtown Lake Street sidewalk deterioration, alley paving project, Public Safety Building, review of finances, flooding, and submittal of minutes from Boards & Commissions.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

JIM'S SPORTS CLUB NOISE ORDINANCE REQUEST

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the lifting of the Noise Ordinance on June 17, August 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26, 2023 from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm (Not 12:00am) and that PD has the discretion to have the music turned down if there are complaints. The request for July 18, 2023 is not approved until there is additional information and clarification of that date.

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 0523-35 PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS
REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to proclaim October 15, 2023 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to add Juneteenth (June 19th) as an all-City of Chisholm staff holiday.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

ORDINANCE 115.01 MORATORIUM ON THE SALE OF TETRAHYDROCANNABINOLS

No action was taken.

SUPPORT FOR MINERAL LEASES

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to have Councilor Vake to speak as a representative of the City Council in support of the DNR recommendation of awarding the Mineral Leases to Cleveland Cliffs Hibbing Taconite.

Voting Aye: Councilors Fountain, and Vake

Voting Nay: Councilor Mikkola-Rahja

Abstaining: Councilors Halverson, Holewa, and Mayor Lantz

Absent: None

Motion Carried

ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:20 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