

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 23, 2024**

Mayor Adam Lantz called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Council Members Marty Halverson, Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja, April Fountain, Jed Holewa, Travis Vake, and Mayor Adam Lantz

Absent: None

Also Present: Clerk Treasurer Devin Ceglar, Building Official Mandy Galli, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Bridgit Maruska, Library Supervisor Katie Christenson, Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Confidential Administrative Assistant Susan Trunk, Dana Rahkola with Mesabi Community TV, Darlene Salo and Jacolyn Sjodin for public participation.

**ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to adopt the agenda with a correction to the dates in the contract of the Building Official/Zoning Administrator to Article II, Term/Salary sections 1 & 2. Effective date will be October 1, 2024, Subsequent years to be October 1, 2025, October 1, 2026, and term ending to be September 31, 2027.

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**

Darlene Salo discussed with the council her concerns about activities by the picnic tables and canopies at the Veteran's Park on Longyear Lake.

Jacolyn Sjodin spoke to the council about the possibility of trimming trees to allow people who are living at Heritage Health Manor to have more clear view of the lake.

**REPORTS**

Councilor Halverson reported that he was at Redhead with Erik Carlson the project manager and trail builders looking at new trail routes. The Saturday prior he was at the MCA bike races, it was very good event and very well attended.

Councilor Mikkola-Rahja did not have a report.

Councilor Fountain reported that she volunteered at the MCA bike races with a great group of people along with her little one. She attended League of Minnesota trainings; AI ethics, 1<sup>st</sup> amendments, regulations of signs, land use regulations, and will be attending the fall forum session. The first one was digital accessibilities for cities.

Councilor Holewa reported that he attended the Sanitary Sewer District meeting where it is budget season and they are working through that. He attended the Public Utilities Commission meeting and held a garden meeting which is moving along pretty well. His election judge duties processed 49 ballots today.

Councilor Vake bypassed on a report as he is hoping to get to a home volleyball game he is hoping to still get to.

Mayor Lantz reported he wanted to keep the council up to date, he does not know a lot of what is going on, but the Hibbing Council has been meeting a couple times with the Airport Authority. The DMR building property tax that comes back goes to the Airport Authority. The money to fund that project came from the IRRR. Once the new building gets put up that could possibly change from 35k in property taxes to somewhere around 60-7K. The Airport Authority uses it for projects such as the hanger for LifeLink and they will have other projects coming up. It seems that Hibbing may have a thought that it should be going towards them since it is in their district. Again, that is speculation coming from a few members on the Airport Authority Board. They have a meeting tonight before their council meeting and are also talking about zoning changes because of the runway expansion, questioning who has the authority on zoning changes, and the last part of their meeting will be discussion of board makeup. Some speculation may be because they contribute 85k a year and Chisholm is closer to 18-20K a year, that they should have more representation of board membership rather than equal representation. This was written by a State Legislator, obviously our name is on the building too and we are the ones that forego that, and our taxes go to pay. He is not sure what the percentage equates to. Mayor Lantz has requested that Barrett reach out to him with what is going on at the meeting tonight. He also thinks that Hibbing should be reaching out to Chisholm to be part of this meeting also. Mayor Lantz will be reaching out the Mayor Hyde to see what is going on.

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The mayor also commented that the Veteran's Park on the east side of the lake is a beautiful park, it is well used, it is well maintained, he drives by it 12 times a day, he drives by it at 2 in the morning, 4 in the morning with ambulance calls. He sees people utilizing the space for picnics, people buying food and sitting in their cars eating it while overlooking the lake, it is a beautiful view and a great addition to the city. He would love to be looking at that across the street from his house compared to what some people have to look at.

Councilor Fountain announced that City Hall has extended their hours for voting from Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 930-3, Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> from 630-7pm, Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-3 and Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-3, Monday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 630-5pm. The Chisholm School Board and the Chisholm Candidate Forum is coming up quick. For Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Chisholm Senior Center, and the moderator is Mr. Steve Potts.

Mayor Lantz let the audience know that Administrator Skraba and Ambulance Director Larson have traveled to Seattle to do the inspection of the new ambulance. It should be here on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ambulance Director Larson was absent.

Fire Chief Masucci was absent due to setting up for EVOG training.

Police Chief Manner was absent.

Building Official Galli did not have a report.

City Consultant Engineer Johnson was absent.

Public Works Supervisor Folstad reported that the sweeper is out, he knows everyone wants it on the same day. It is running 48 hours a week, he knows about the leaves and they will get them. It takes 3 to 4 weeks to get through the whole city. They will keep getting them until it snows. The city crew is working on flipping of the seasons, other maintenance tasks, and putting on the snowplow wings. The forecast looks good.

Parks/Trails/Recreation Director Maruska reported that the MCA race had 1400 racer, with folks in attendance (families, race staff, and spectators) it was plus 4000. Close to the population of Chisholm. All positive feedback from the MCA, no major injuries, the trails held up well even though there was rain on Sunday. She attended the Arrowhead Coalition of Trails on October 16<sup>th</sup>. It is a new meeting group that started and it is an open invitation for anyone interested in being involved in an action committee for it. The purpose of it is to collectively operationalize our outdoor recreation assets to create an economic renaissance for main streets and major employers. It was a really great conference where we all came together across the region and talked about our trails and how we can work together on them. She is on a committee and would love anyone in the public or interested to join her. Reach out to her directly. She spoke at a podcast in Ely called "What's Up Ely". The purpose what she was invited to talk about Redhead, but the conversation went in a lot of different ways, and she ended up talking a lot about how great Chisholm is. So, if you get the chance to look up the pod cast you will hear her talking about the greatness of Chisholm. Next week is a site visit with FEMA, October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully to move forward with some federal fund to help with that June washout.

Library Supervisor Christenson did not have a report.

Attorney Lindsay gave an update on blight. He has gotten together with some of the city staff (Public Works Supervisor Folstad, Administrator Skraba). They identified 4 chronic cases where there is more struggle to get cleaned up. He will be returning to the city with a proposal to get a couple of civil actions started and using some of the contempt powers of the court to get some clean up happening and force some resolution. In connection with that, he is in the early stages of talking to prosecutors around the Iron Range, as he represents a few cities in St. Louis County. He has approached the court to some degree to see if they can get some special time on the court calendar so that some of the blight cases can be on specific calendars with judges who can follow those cases a little more closely. He hopes that they can get more action and meaningful results on the cases that go to court.

Mayor Lantz commented about the email he had Susan forward to council about the property on the south side of town. He would like to see the city come up with a clearly defined protocol/procedure so that everyone from the PD knows where it goes after that, hitting each step, checking each box, and hopefully be the most strict city around. He addressed Councilor Mikkola-Rahja as a member of the Police Commission, that he assumes it is being discussed there too and request that they joint the conversation.

Clerk-Treasurer Ceglar did not have a report.

Administrator Skraba was absent.

**APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to Approve the Consent Agenda including the List of Bills, Communications, Meeting Minutes from the October 2, 2024 Working Session, October 9, 2024 Public Hearing for Collection System 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, October 9, 2024 Regular Meeting, payroll, and overtime.

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 1024-85 DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED, ORDERING  
PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT, AND SETTING A HEARING ON  
PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS FOR THE 2024 STREET & ALLEY RECONDITIONING  
PROJECT**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Halverson to adopt Resolution Number 1024-85 Declaring Cost to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment, and Setting a Hearing on Proposed Assessments for the 2024 Street & Alley Reconditioning Project.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1024-86 DECLARING COST TO BE ASSESSED, ORDERING  
PREPARATION OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT, AND SETTING A HEARING ON  
PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt Resolution Number 1024-86 Declaring Cost to be Assessed, Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessment, and Setting a Hearing on Proposed Assessments for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Infrastructure Improvement Project.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**PAY APPLICATION NUMBER 1 FOR 2024 STREET AND ALLEY RECONDITIONING  
PROJECT**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve Pay Application Number 1 for the 2024 Street & Alley Reconditioning Project in the amount of \$249,325.72 to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**\$90,000.00 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT WORK ORDERS  
NUMBERS 1 & 2**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Fountain to approve HRGreen Work Orders Number 1 & 2.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LONGYEAR LAKE MASTER PLAN**

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Longyear Lake Master Plan.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1024-84 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO  
MAKE APPLICATION TO ST. LOUIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Vake to adopt Resolution Number 1024-84 Authorizing the City Administrator to Make Application to St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$300,000.00.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

**STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LIMITED USE PERMIT**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation Limited Use Permit to use the area within the right-of-way of Trunk Highway 169.

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

Voting Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

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**BRINGING LIGHT TO CHISHOLM CITY WIDE FESTIVAL**

Moved by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja and supported by Councilor Vake to approve the request for a city-wide festival on December 5, 2024 for the Bringing Light to Chisholm community event.  
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion Carried

**MINNESOTA NORTH COLLEGE AND CITY OF CHISHOLM AGREEMENT**

Moved by Councilor Holewa and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the Minnesota North College and City of Chisholm Agreement to allow EMT and Paramedic ride-a-longs with the Chisholm Ambulance Service.  
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion Carried

**SCHEDULE A WORKING SESSION FOR MNDOT PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Moved by Councilor Fountain and supported by Councilor Vake to schedule a Working Session on November 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm, held at the Chisholm Senior Center for MnDOT 73 Corridor Public Informational Meeting.  
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion Carried

**APPROVE CONTRACT FOR BUILDING OFFICIAL/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Moved by Councilor Halverson and supported by Councilor Mikkola-Rahja to approve the contract for the Building Official/Zoning Administrator with corrections to Article II, Term/Salary sections 1 & 2. Effective date will be October 1, 2024, Subsequent years to be October 1, 2025, October 1, 2026, and term ending to be September 31, 2027.  
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1024-88 TO JOIN THE U.S. HIGHWAY 169 RANGE GATEWAY COALITION**

Council did not act on Resolution Number 1024-88 To Join the U.S. Highway 169 Range Gateway Coalition.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. HIGHWAY 169 RANGE GATEWAY COALITION**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Halverson to approve a letter of support for the U.S. Highway 169 Gateway Coalition.  
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion Carried

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Mayor Lantz asked if anyone had anything else such as something for the next agenda. Councilor Fountain asked about getting an update next meeting about the Airport Authority per the Mayor's report. Mayor Lantz said they will likely set up a meeting or have Barrett come to the council meeting. Councilor Vake asked that Chief Manner bring an update of the contract with Buhl. Mayor Lantz commented that Chief Manner has been given the request per the budget meeting. Councilor Vake also asked about exploring garbage contract in Buhl. Public Works Supervisor commented that Buhl has a pretty good contract.

**ADJOURN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Moved by Councilor Vake and supported by Councilor Holewa to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:17 pm.  
Voting Aye: Councilors Halverson, Mikkola-Rahja, Fountain, Holewa, Vake, and Mayor Lantz  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent: None Motion Carried