



**Approved
06/25/24**

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
May 28, 2024**

Present: Acting Mayor Dresel, Council Member Battles, Rivers and Meyers

Absent: Mayor Gustafson

Staff: City Administrator Pechman, Police Chief Schlumbohm, Attorney Doran, City Engineer Stanley

Public Attendance: Leilani Freeman, John Chouinard, Linda Madsen, Mike Moska, Mike Kippel, Wendell Ostlie

REGULAR MEETING-CALL TO ORDER 6:30

Acting Mayor Dresel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1a. "Pledge of Allegiance"

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Action

1b. Roll Call

All members present.

Action

AGENDA

Acting Mayor Dresel asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Administrator Pechman stated there was nothing to add.

Council Member Rivers made the motion to approve the agenda, Council Member Meyer seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

3a. Minutes of April 23, 2024

Action

3b. Payment of Bills/Finance Information

Action

3c. Committee Reports

Discussion

Council Member Rivers made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Council Member Meyer seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA PLACEMENT

Acting Mayor Dresel asked if anyone had any comments or concerns on anything which was not on the agenda.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, COMMUNICATION

5a. Lakes Center for Youth and Families

Presentation

Linda Madsen stated she is the director of the Lakes Center for Youth and Families and thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing her to present this evening. They have been before council in 2023 with annual report and participation and demographic information and their annual report. Madsen goes through explains the group and how they operate; they have 20 board members to oversee the running of this outreach for youth. The organization is extremely important to our county. Much of the work has been done through virtual now since covid and it seems to be working well.

The Mayor and City Council thanked Madsen for her presentation tonight.

5b. Continued - John Chouinard (requested to be on agenda on 4/16/24)

John Chouinard 7954 Pioneer Road and would like to speak about the Chisago City portion of Pioneer Road. To give a little history they have lived here since 1976 with there six children. They lived in Lindstrom until 1985 and then built a home on Pioneer Road. Which at that time Pioneer Road was a narrow, dusty gravel road which they thought was perfect for country living. Little did they know that in less than 40 years it is a major, major through fare. You used to be able to exit onto Highway 8 off of Iris Avenue. The last count that was done was over 2 years ago and at that time is was 1400 daily. He and his wife would like to go walking but they cannot on this road it is too dangerous. And then Chisago City decided to annex land away from Wyoming township and the small portion of Pioneer in Chisago City has been neglected. The road has gravel shoulders and potholes along the edges which he believes is the cause of his wife's car accident; it was snowing and she had moved over because of oncoming traffic and over corrected and had a head on with oncoming truck. She received 5 broken ribs, broken finger and was black and blue from head to toe. He has brought pictures tonight of the Chisago City portion and the Wyoming portion to see the difference and the need for repair. The speed limits need to be set and enforced for this road he believes it should be 30 mph.

Acting Mayor Dresel stated that part of Pioneer is part of the Highway 8 project.

Mike Moska stated the new yellow striping on the road is great but when there is a rainstorm you want to look to the left and white stripe is what you see to see the edge of the road. The road shoulders have been filled with gravel.

Another gentleman stated going on to Highway 8 from Pioneer Road there is a corner which is shaded by tress and the road needs to be treated in the winter it is a very slippery stretch. The shoulders need to be paved with a white strip along the road to designate where it is; there used to be a white stripe and it is worn off.

Mike Kippel 25510 East Comfort Road and thanked them for taking the time and he is the President of the Lakes Association. The fog line needs to be in place and the road is posted 5 ton and needs to be enforced. This is not a weight restriction for summer but for all the time.

Wendell Ostlie stated he and his wife have lived on the lake for 31 years at 25656 East Comfort Drive. Years ago, when Wyoming widened the road Chisago City did not widen their portion, so we have this stretch of road which does not match. The shoulders need to be widened by 5 feet on each side and not worry about hitting the asphalt holes on the edges.

Acting Mayor Dresel thanked everyone for their thoughts and concerns and will take this up with the Police and City Administrator to improve this issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

7a. Resignation Cable Commission Citizen at large for Chisago City -Mike Siemsen Action

City Administrator Pechman stated Mike Siemsen submitted his letter of resignation for the Cable Commission. Mike has served in that capacity for many years, his experience will be missed. Staff is recommending accepting Mike's resignation and authorizing advertising for his replacement on the cable commission.

Council Member Meyer made the motion to accept the resignation, Council Member Rivers seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

7b. Res. 24-05-01 – Reinstating Power of Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Action

City Administrator Pechman stated Chisago City lost its ability to act as a Local Board of Review and Appeal in February of 2023. Chisago City did not have a member of the city council trained due to a mistake in an email sent out by the County Assessor. The city has since that time had Council Member Meyer trained. Member Meyers training is good through 2027. The city council has previously indicated that it desired to be reinstated. The attached resolution is prepared for your consideration. If approved city staff will forward it on to the county assessor's office.

Council Member Meyer made the motion to approve resolution 24-05-01, Council Member Rivers seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

7c. Hwy 8 Underpass Funding Action

City Administrator Pechman stated Chisago County Public works Director Joe Triplett addressed the City Council at its regular meeting in March 26, 2024. He also sent Administrator Pechman an email update on April 1, 2024. The email was misinterpreted by Administrator to mean that Chisago City would be required to pay the cost of the underpass in addition to assuming all maintenance responsibility. The underpass would be paid out the existing project funds but the maintenance and replacement costs would be the city's responsibility. The email also explains that several major property impacts would occur if the underpass were to stay in as part of the project. Triplett believes there would be a taking of 3-4 homes and one business to accommodate the grading of the highway for the underpass.

The City Council at the March meeting had a few questions related to possible additional paths and how long the tunnel expected life span is but there was no decision made on whether to keep the tunnel on the plan or remove it. County Engineer Triplett is now requesting the city

council takes formal action on whether to continue with the underpass or vote to have it removed.

Council Member Rivers asked about going back to plan B a redlight with a walk across.

Administrator Pechman stated there would be a crossing to the island and then across the other lane of traffic.

Council Member Meyer made the motion to pass on the Highway 8 tunnel, Council Member Battles seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

7d. Renewal of Employment Agreement for Administrator Pechman Action

City Attorney Doran stated Administrator Pechman's last employment agreement review was in 2010. There have been minor changes made to the current agreement in review. The terms and conditions of the agreement has been reviewed by Finance Director Gemuenden and Attorney Doran. This agreement will be a four-year term, with automatic one-year renewals thereafter if negotiations are not made 6 months prior to the sunset of the agreement. Doran stated it protects all parties as far as the compensation.

Council Member Meyer made the motion to approve the contract, Council Member Battles seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. Public Safety Funds Action

City staff has asked the city council in the past what direction they wanted to go in regarding Chisago City's allocation of one-time state funded Public Safety monies. The council gave staff direction that we would match Lindstrom's amount for the LAPD. City staff was advised by Chief Schlumbohm that the Lindstrom chiefs and Administrator had met and the Lindstrom allocation to the PD was going to be \$115,301. The Lindstrom Administrators recommendation was brought to their council for consideration. Chisago City was then advised that Lindstrom wanted an amount contributed to be based on population not the existing JPA agreement of a 50/50 cost share. Chisago City Administrator told the Lindstrom Administrator we were going to match dollar for dollar and that a large chunk of the money has been allocated to the fire department for new radios. The Lindstrom council at its last meeting reiterated the dollar per capita amount they had previously discussed. The attached sheet provided by Lindstrom shows the \$115,301 that Chisago was led to believe was going to be matched. The amount for Chisago stays the same but the amount from LAPD is reduced to \$100,720. A difference of \$14,581, up until this point Chisago has never been asked to contribute based on a population. The Police Commission prior to all of the discussion by Lindstrom was told by Chisago that we would match dollar for dollar with Lindstrom. None of the Police Commission members raised any concern or comments. City staff is looking for direction since what was approved by the council is now not acceptable for Lindstrom. A one-time retention and hiring bonus was already approved and is an allowed use of the funds. The bonus was set to be disbursed on July 1st.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 28, 2024

Page 5 of 5

The council, after further discussion and remembering that it is supposed to be and always has been a 50/50 cost share decides this time, they will pay what was agreed to amount of 50/50 because of the amounts being promised to LAPD.

Council Member Meyer made the motion to approve the dollars, Council Member Rivers seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

ADJOURN

Council Member Rivers made the motion to adjourn, Council Member Meyer seconded, all in favor, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Paula Oehme,
Deputy City Clerk