



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
12.10.24**

Absent: Dallas Fisher, MaryJo Wiatrak, Nancy Hoffman
Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Kyle Peterson called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance, Kyle Peterson, Jason Houle, Marlys Dunne, Marie Rivers, Jeremy Dresel.

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: December 10, 2024.

President Peterson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Dunne would like to add 9b. Celebration of the Lakes to New Business for discussion. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the agenda with additions; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: November 12, 2024.

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 12th minutes. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITIONS

5a. City Council Liaison Report

At the November 12th meeting, the Council approved a moratorium on massage businesses until an ordinance can be created to help regulate this type of business. The moratorium will be in effect for 6 months, or until the ordinance is passed, whichever is soonest. Council also approved

- the annual renewals of the liquor and tobacco licenses
- certified the delinquent sewer and water bills
- certified charges for grass mowing on two unkempt properties
- a new lease from Version for antennas on the water tower
- a Karmel Ave rezone from agricultural
- 10595 Liberty Lake design review
- Final Plat approval for Lake Martha Overlook extension

The Personnel Committee recommended a new employee recognition program that allows designated city funds to be used for staff celebrations, such as a summer picnic, retirement party, etc. Previously, funds for these items were paid for by staff out of their personal funds. This program also includes a \$100 annual allowance for city staff to purchase city logo clothing. The employee recognition program was approved.

The Public Works Department presented a quote for a new Vactor truck, which is used in cleaning and maintaining our sewer system. The proposal would have the city financing the new truck for 6 years at an approximate cost of \$109K per year (including financing fees). The City Council tabled the vote on the new Vactor truck pending more investigation into the used truck market and other factors.

5b. County & Neighboring City EDA Updates

Dunne stated that the county has shifted the districts, they are looking for a new District 3 EDA/HRA representative.

5c. Additional Grant Funds-Liberty Lane Expansion Project

Pechman provided the commission with the grant approval letter which awarded the additional \$88,487 for construction of the storm water ponds, this is an addition to the already approved DEED grant amount to include the ponds.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the monthly financial report.

Commission discussed the interest and the payment plan for the land purchase with county HRA/EDA.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2024 Goals & Updates

1. Highway 8 Project

Still waiting for the turtle problem to get resolved.

2. Land Development Activity

Pechman stated that the city council will be asked at the meeting tonight to use ARPA funds for an additional land purchase of 5.75 acres for an industrial expansion. Dunne asked if there was any communication regarding LEI's email about TIF or tax abatement possibilities. Pechman has given him a response and told him the city's preference is tax abatement over TIF.

3. Fund 51 update

Fund 51 was the LEI loan; all loans have been paid in full. The money in fund 15 needs to be used for infrastructure or building assistance.

9. New Business

9a. 2025 Goals/Updates

Commission would like to keep the Highway 8 project, and the Land Development on the goals and updates for 2025. Commission discussed a city owned lot and some acreage off Stacy Trail, and what could be done with them. Dunne suggested having Business/Residential Opportunities as a goal. Dresel suggested putting together a business engagement event once a year. Pechman suggested a bigger EDA presence in the community, a community outreach program.

2025 Goals/Updates:

1. Highway 8 Project
2. Land Development
3. Business and Residential Opportunities
4. Business Engagement Event & Community Outreach

9b. Celebration of the Lakes

Dunne wanted to ask the commission if there is interest in a contribution to the Celebration of the Lakes event. The event will be held on South Lindstrom Lake the weekend of February 7-9, 2025. Commissioners agreed to a donation. Dunne will bring a formal request for a donation and an invoice next month. A \$500.00 donation would be acceptable.

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Rivers made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Dresel seconded; all ayes; the meeting adjourned.