



Approved

**REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
08.08.23**

Absent: Dallas Fischer
Guests:

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Staff in attendance was City Administrator John Pechman.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: August 8, 2023

President Peterson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Rivers made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Dunne seconded; all ayes; motion passed.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: July 11, 2023

President Peterson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 11th 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

Commissioner Rivers gave an update on the council meeting that was held on July 25th. There were two public hearings for the Park and Planning Commissions to change to 5 member commissions with alternates. Planning was kept at 7 members with a council member now a voting member. The Park Commission will stay with 7 members and 2 youth positions. There was a vacation of right of way for the car condos development. A conditional use permit was denied for the Liberty Lane storage unit. The final plat for the Chisago Lakes Car Condos was approved. ABDO had a variance approved to waive a tree study for the land being developed along Highway 8. The preliminary plat for the ABDO project was approved. The Shoreland Overlay District was amended to add the areas of Lent Township that were annexed in. There were two different speed limit requests approved.

The city received a DNR Grant for the Swedish Immigrant Trail into Ojiketa Regional Park, the grant amount is \$250,000. The city will need to fund the remainder of the project.

Council approved a promotion for Tyler Istvanovich in the Public Works Department, he completed his sewer and water licensure. The Chisago Lakes Lions Club requested signage along Highway 8 and council approved the application. Council also discussed the use of cannabis in public.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7a. Monthly Financial Report.

Finance Director Gemuenden submitted the monthly financial report.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Highway 8 Project

Funding is approved, possibly an endangered bat species is in the area, bat houses are being set up to catch the bats to see if the species in the area of the highway corridor are endangered. If the endangered species are in the area, then additional environmental work will be done.

Council has had a workshop to discuss what the project will do to the local roads. The city will need to set up funding and planning to take care of issues that come along during the project.

2. Downtown Street Project and Revitalization

Commission commented on how nice the street project looks, the city is working on some final touches as the project is near completion.

Peterson commented on the house next to Smitty's being for sale again, the benefit to the property is the garage in the back. Commission will talk to Hoffman on any potential business interests. The listed price is \$225,000.

3. Land Development Activity

Pechman and Hoffman met with another interested party from Forest Lake. It was a positive meeting. Pechman followed up with the other interested parties, one is holding tight now due to interest rates. The other one is getting pricing and building information together prior to finding a location.

4. Business Retention Initiative and Visits

Associate Planner Nelson and Hoffman participated in visits with Brinks Market and Veritas Academy. Veritas is interested in getting more involved in the community and get the word out about the school. They are looking at providing a preschool and daycare at their site. Brinks Market is looking at

expanding, Roger Brink attended the last planning commission meeting to get input from the city, he is looking at a 7,000 square foot expansion. This will give him room to widen his aisles. This city is looking at ways to make this happen, the store is such a benefit to the city.

5. LEI Packaging

9. NEW BUSINES

Dunne gave a recap on the Triathlon and spoke about the Water Trail and if the Lake Improvement District should take ownership of it.

Commission discussed the Twin Cities Live broadcast and the impact it had on the local businesses. The live broadcast was interrupted, and the entire program will re-air on August 14th.

10. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant